

35p



# INDEPENDENT

35p

WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 1995

## SECTION TWO

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Why he loves changing nappies



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## EXCLUSIVE LIBERTY SHOPPING DAY

£11,000 of Liberty gift vouchers to be won plus a holiday in Thailand - see page 24

# Lone parents are targeted in £1bn social security cuts

## EXCLUSIVE DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Social security spending is to be cut by another £1bn a year in a drastic package of savings agreed between Peter Lilley and the Treasury to help provide room for Budget tax cuts, according to a letter leaked to the Independent.

The letter from the Social Security Secretary to William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, also foreshadows the first time deep cuts in housing benefit for the under-25s and cuts of up to 75 per cent in industrial injuries benefit, plus a tough new clampdown in payments made to single parents.

Mr Lilley's offer on housing and industrial injuries benefit, wrung from him in an acrimonious wrangle between the two ministers, is in addition to an agreed programme of savings which will reduce his budget immediately by £400m rising to £1bn over three years.

The confidential letter, leaked to Labour's Social Security spokesman, Chris Smith and shown to the Independent, reveals that ministers are ready to risk what they admit could be a parliamentary defeat by forcing through the benefit cuts for 1 million single parents.

It shows that Mr Lilley had already agreed by the end of last month to abolish for all new claimants the £5.20 a week Lone Parent Premium paid to those on income support, and to freeze the One Parent Benefit paid to single mothers irrespective of income. The Lone Parent Premium will also be frozen for existing claimants - meaning a real terms cut for some of the poorest parents in Britain. But it also reveals that Mr Lilley fought a frantic rearguard action against demands to go even further by introducing full scale bills in the next Parliamentary session to abolish One Parent Benefit for all new cases and to make even more draconian cuts in young people's housing benefit - which would have also required primary legislation.

The Social Security Secretary warns that abolition of One Parent Benefit would save a maximum of £60m in the third year and would certainly precipitate a "closing down sale." This is a Whitehall euphemism for a rush of single parents postponing marriage or even deliberately having children before the benefit has ended.

Mr Lilley says in his letter, sent on 24 October, that "with our shrinking majority" the secondary legislation needed to end One Parent Benefit "may be voted down" but if EDX [the Cabinet spending committee] are minded to act in this area, they might consider that this would be less calamitous than losing a Bill which might save only a little more." The letter also reveals that Mr Lilley tried hard to resist staff cuts including those in DSS offices.

Mr Smith said last night that the letter showed the Government were not interested in a "sensible welfare system" and added: "They're simply grabbing money from those who already have the least. They're robbing the poor to pay for the rich." He added: "In a desperate search for election tax bribes the government are clearly intent on hammering the poorest people in the land. Young people living in rented accommodation, single parents struggling to bring up children, people who have suffered injury at work: thousands will suffer if these proposals go through."

Cost in hardship, page 3

## New arms-to-Iraq row as Appeal Court quashes convictions of four businessmen

# Ministers blocked vital trial evidence

CONFIDENTIAL

SUMMARY OF INTELLIGENCE REPORT (Ref: 25-26)

The foreign intelligence report dated on 2 January 1990 went to various UK Departments and Agencies, but not to HM Customs and Excise until July 1990, or to DTI at all, provided information about Iraq's procurement of an extremely fine for faster through an international corporation including British companies who by convention were not specifically identified. However, they were shown in a separate S. 1.449 report, one with ORDTech. The guide

CHRIS BLACKHURST  
DAVID HELLIER  
and COLIN BROWN

The Court of Appeal yesterday overturned the convictions of four men, involved in supplying arms to Iraq, on the grounds that they had been denied a fair trial because vital documents were withheld by the Government.

Labour immediately called for the resignations of the ministers whose actions prevented the men, who ran Ordtech, an arms technology company, from gaining access to secret Whitehall papers.

The decision by Lord Justice Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, removed the last legal obstacle to publication of the Scott report into British arms sales to Iraq, which already threatened to bring about the downfall of several Cabinet ministers.

In its judgment, the Court of Appeal said the four were denied a fair trial in the absence of vital documents denied to them by the prosecution. "We are satisfied that the documents which are now before the Court ought to have been made available for the trial."

The ruling raised further

questions over the conduct of ministers in signing Public Interest Immunity certificates to prevent disclosure of evidence in court cases. In the Ordtech trial three years ago, Kenneth Baker, the then Home Secretary, and Peter Lilley, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, issued such certificates. They were joined at the appeal stage by Michael Howard, the present Home Secretary, and Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary until this summer.

As with the collapse of the Matrix Churchill case, which led to the establishment of Sir Richard Scott's inquiry, the Ordtech case centred on the involvement of one of the appellants with the security services.

Paul Grecian, head of Ordtech, had been working as a Special Branch informer and was the first person to inform Whitehall that Saddam Hussein was building a "super-gun" with the help of British companies. Despite that, he was investigated and prosecuted by HM Customs and Excise.

Evidence withheld by ministers from the trial, but finally disclosed on appeal, revealed the full extent of his assistance to Scotland Yard's Special Branch and MI5 and MI6.



Fighting four: (from left) Paul Grecian, Stuart Blackledge, Brian Mason and Colin Phillips. Far left, one of the documents that was withheld. Photographs: Edward Webb

However, officials and ministers were prepared to disavow his help. In August 1990, a Foreign Office official reportedly compiled a briefing note for the security services, which said: "If Ordtech ends up in court [Mr Grecian] may be persuaded to keep quiet about his connections with [Special Branch] and yourselves but there is an obvious risk he will try the 'working for British intelligence' ploy."

The official added: "his personal future might be in some doubt if he was ever publicly identified as the man who blew the [whistle] on the Iraqi Babylon project. If we were not too squeamish, we might use this point to ensure silence."

It is now increasingly difficult to dispel the suspicion that ministers were prepared to go to any length, even perverting the legal system, to save their own skin

- Leading article, page 16

During the appeal, it emerged that during the original trial the prosecution had turned "a blind eye" to the fact that Mr Grecian could not protect him from possible recriminations from either the IRA, on whom he had also informed, or the Iraqis, if he refused to plead guilty.

Another plank of the appellants' case, that the Government had turned "a blind eye" towards the export of arms to Iraq via Jordan was upheld by the Court of Appeal. Among the documents cited by the defence was a telegram from the British Embassy in Amman to the Foreign Office on 28 May 1990: "Are we trying to ensure that the problem does not arise again by putting a stop to further Jordanian involvement in Iraqi procurement? Have we

not turned a blind eye to Jordanian involvement in the past? (The Ambassador thinks that this has been the case.)"

Mr Grecian and the other appellants, Bryan Mason, Colin Phillips and Stuart Blackledge, said they were considering a claim for compensation. "The whole thing has been a sorry mess," said Mr Grecian.

Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, said the release of the evidence had not compromised security. "What is compromised is the integrity of this Government that is shown to have known the arms were going to Iraq and has been shown to pretend it didn't [know] when these businessmen were put on trial."

The cover-up, page 2  
News analysis, page 15

## Airline pilot's waggling wings lead to a grounding

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR

A pilot who flew an empty Boeing 767 off its normal flight path to go over his home to show off to his wife has been suspended, along with his co-pilot.

According to a witness, the Britannia Airways plane flew at

about 2,000 feet and waggled its wings over the town of Congleton, Cheshire, before continuing its journey from Manchester to Ibiza where it was due to pick up a load of passengers.

The witness says the plane circled twice round the town during the incident which happened at 4.30pm on 30 October.

The plane would normally have been at about twice that height over the town.

Jeff Gazzard, of Manchester Airport Environment Network which is campaigning against the proposed second runway at the airport, demanded a full inquiry into the incident and into air-traffic control procedures, saying there were serious safety implications: "These big aircraft are simply not designed to make tight manoeuvres at 2,000 feet. This may seem very funny and the rest of the crew seems to have been in on the joke, but it was

actually a terrible safety risk."

Mr Gazzard also asked why air-traffic controllers did not realise what had happened and intervene: "This occurred in controlled airspace and happened at a busy time ... it probably delayed other flights."

Yesterday, Britannia confirmed that two pilots had been suspended after "a non-standard manoeuvre which may have infringed noise abatement and company procedures". The company, which refused to release their names, is carrying out an inquiry which "could result in disciplinary action".

### IN BRIEF

**Barker wins Booker**  
The Ghost Road, by Pat Barker has won the 1995 Booker Prize. It was announced in London last night. Barker was among a short list of five, of whom the hot favourite was the 1981 winner Salman Rushdie. Page 3

**Bank attacked in Commons**  
The Bank of England's competence as the main banking supervisor came under sharp attack with calls from both sides of the House for a full parliamentary debate into the collapse of Barings. The influential Commons Treasury committee said there was "considerable concern" over the Bank's supervisory role. Page 21

**Likud 'stirred up hatred'**  
Amid a growing row over the role of Israel's Likud Party in fuelling the political violence which culminated in the killing of Yitzhak Rabin, his widow has accused the party and its leader of stirring up hatred. Page 10

**Juppé reshuffle**  
France's Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, announced a reshuffle of his government last night, less than six months after taking office. Page 11

**West's 'made pact'**  
Rosemary and Frederick West made a pact that he would take the blame for the Cromwell Street killings, a witness told Winchester Crown Court yesterday before collapsing and being taken to hospital. The witness, Janet Leach, became a confidant of West after his arrest. Page 4

SMOKING GUN

### COMMENT

**Patrick Cockburn:** What the future holds for Israel's right-wingers. Page 17

**Tom Sawicki's Jerusalem Diary.** Page 15

**Polly Toynbee:** How to give men equality. Page 17

**Another View:** The former Bishop of Durham on the Church and gays. Page 16

**Leading article:** "In the election for the general secretaryship of Unison, the victor's opponents were two ultra-leftists and an anti-abortionist - testimony to the shallowness of the union's gene pool. Mr Bickerstaffe was, in truth, the best of a pretty poor bunch." Page 16

**Weather:** Cloudy with light drizzle across much of England and Wales, but brighter in the east and fairly mild. Most of Scotland will also be rainy. Section Two, page 21

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# Men win funds to fight Labour quotas

JOHN RENTOUL  
Political Correspondent

The Equal Opportunities Commission has backed two male would-be MPs in their legal action against the Labour Party's policy of women's quotas for parliamentary candidates.

The EOC has taken the controversial step of offering financial help and expert advice to Peter Jepson and Roger Dyas Elliot, whose joint case against Labour will be heard at

Leeds industrial tribunal on 11 December.

The case could be a serious embarrassment to the Labour Party, but the commission believes that it is "a matter of public interest" to test the legality of the policy, a spokesman said.

It decided to make a "limited offer of assistance" last week and wrote over the weekend to Mr Jepson, who is acting for both men, offering access to its database of cases and to pay for him to seek further legal opinion.

Mr Jepson was excluded from an all-women shortlist to choose the candidate for the new safe Labour Regent's Park seat in central London; Mr Dyas Elliot was turned away from the selection process in Keighley, West Yorkshire.

Mr Jepson, a PhD student and part-time law lecturer, claims that Labour's policy is in breach of both the Sex Discrimination Act and the European equal treatment directive. The Labour Party is taking

the case seriously and will be represented by James Goudie, a senior QC who once shared an office with Tony Blair, the Labour leader, in the chambers of Lord Irvine, the shadow Lord Chancellor.

"I think that shows they are concerned with the case," said Mr Jepson, who welcomed access to the EOC's research back-up and expertise in equal opportunities case law as a way of matching Labour's legal firepower. Mr Jepson does not

have formal legal representation, although he does have voluntary help from a newly qualified barrister.

Mr Blair has been unenthusiastic about the policy of requiring local Labour parties to choose female candidates in half of all winnable seats. In July he said that the policy, brought in by John Smith in 1993 but opposed by the party's former leadership, Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley, was "not ideal at all", and he said it would ap-

ply only to the coming general election. He later said it would be up to the party as a whole to "review" the policy after the general election.

Alan Lakin, the EOC's chief legal adviser, yesterday denied that the commission had changed its position. The commission, which is charged to "work towards the elimination of sex discrimination" and to monitor the 1975 Act, obtained counsel's opinion last year from Michael Beloff QC that Labour's

policy was lawful - "which remains the view of the commission", he said.

The case will turn on whether political parties have a blanket exclusion from the provisions of the Act, or whether being an MP is "employment" - access to which is controlled by the Labour Party in safe seats.

Meanwhile, Labour's National Executive is continuing the slow process of imposing all-women shortlists on reluctant local parties.

## IN BRIEF

### Gays warned of homophobic killer

Police fear a homophobic killer could be at work after after a man was murdered and another savagely beaten in Plymouth yesterday.

Victims of anti-gay attacks are being contacted after the men were found just after midnight lying in a park known as a meeting place for gay sex. The dead man, aged 40, had been stabbed in the groin and beaten. The injured man, aged between 40 and 50, was described as stable. Unconfirmed reports claimed both men suffered mutilation to their genitals.

### Extradition move

A French anti-terrorist magistrate flew to London in what is seen as the first steps to extradite an Algerian wanted for questioning in France over a wave of bombings. Abdelkader Benoufi, 36, also known as Abou Fares, is being held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act after his arrest on Saturday.

### Lawyers walk out

Lawyers representing four men accused of involvement in the murder of 31-year-old Margaret Wright - an epileptic battered and shot by a mob at a loyalist drinking den last year - walked out of the trial at Belfast Crown Court without giving a reason. The judge adjourned the case until today.

### No Go on Internet

Attempts to take the Monopoly board game into the hi-tech age with the launch of the CD-ROM version on the Internet with a game involving players in Las Vegas, Paris, Hamburg and London failed after a power cut hit lines in London.

### THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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## Booker Prize: Judges favour Pat Barker's novel 'The Ghost Road' about soldiers' traumas in the Great War

### Northern realism wins over Rushdie's hot property



Booker choice: Pat Barker with her prizewinning novel last night at Guildhall in London

Photograph: Edward Sykes

JOHN WALSH  
Literary Editor

The Booker Prize, generally accepted as the world's premier award for a single work of fiction, was won last night by *The Ghost Road* by Pat Barker. The announcement, made at the Guildhall in the City of London by George Walden, the outgoing MP and chairman of the Booker judges, shocked many fans of Salman Rushdie, whose fifth novel, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, was the bookies' favourite to win - indeed, at odds of 4-5, it was the hottest-ever favourite for the £20,000 prize. Ms Barker was second favourite at 3-1.

Born in Thornaby-on-Tees in 1943 and now living in Durham, Pat Barker is something of an unknown quantity on the metropolitan literary circuit (she always feels "relieved", she says, to get back to her northern roots), but her novels have won a steadily growing reputation since 1991, when she published *Regeneration*, the first of a trilogy of novels about the First World War, of which *The Eye in the Door* (1993) was the second and the new Booker winner the third.

Her family was working-class. She studied history at the London School of Economics and became a teacher. She began writing in her mid-twenties, finished several unpublished novels, and was advised by the late novelist Angela Carter to write about her own northern background. The result was *Union Street*, her prizewinning debut, a series of stories about working-class life which was bizarrely

transmogrified by Hollywood into the love-and-dyslexia movie *Stanley and Iris*, starring Jane Fonda and Robert de Niro.

*The Ghost Road* explores the trauma of soldiers in the First World War through the psychological investigations of William Rivers, a real-life anthropologist and military psychiatrist, and the swath cut through Edwardian society by one of his patients, the bisexual class warrior Billy Prior. Historical figures such as Wilfred Owen and Lewis Carroll turn up in the narrative but the dialogue is brightly modern, and a subplot about anthropological researches among Melanesian natives offer an eloquent counterbalance to this glittering story of civilisation falling apart.

The book is a worthy winner. Reviewing it, the *Times Literary Supplement* said, "With the other two volumes of the trilogy, it forms one of the richest and most rewarding works of fiction of recent times."

The other contenders were: Barry Unsworth's *Mortality Play*. Unsworth, 65, won the Booker in 1992 with *Sacred Hunger*, an epic tale of slave ships and the value of human lives in the 18th century. In *Mortality Play* he goes to the late-14th century, a time of plague and famine in England, and traces the wanderings of a troupe of travelling players, driven by penury to enact, instead of a Bible story, the tale of a real-life local murder of a 14-year-old boy. Unsworth offers a revelation of the Dark Ages as they began to turn towards the Enlightenment.

Tim Winton's *The Riders*. Dismayingly young at 35, Winton is the bright young hope of Australian novelists, much praised by the likes of former Booker laureate Thomas Kenneally. In *The Riders*, the stolid Fred Scully, beginning to set up a new home in Ireland, discovers that his wife, Jennifer, has disappeared in Europe and sets out with his little daughter, Billie, to track her down. His quest leaves the reader hanging in an existential limbo.

Justin Cartwright's *In Every Face I Meet*. South-African-born Cartwright's twin obsessions with London and the African wilderness of his childhood meet in *Every Face* (the title is from Blake's *Song of Experience* about London), which offers the alternately banal and despairing thought processes of a London businessman on the slide, and the musings of a young prostitute and her crack-dealing black pimp who is to be the businessman's nemesis. Cartwright's ventriloquial skills cannot hide a slightly effortful piling on of the agony. Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*. The 48-year-old, Bombay-born, Rugby-educated, chronic winder-upper-of-dangerous-and-powerful-men-and-women Rushdie, in his fifth novel gives the reader the explosive figure of Morcas Zogbi, who tells the epic tale of his father, Abraham's, huge 20th-century trading empire in Cochim. Rather than deal in the religious sectarianism of *The Satanic Verses*, Rushdie makes his hero a Catholic-Jewish Arab; and gives Morcas a body that ages at twice the normal speed.

## Cuts could exact a high cost in human hardship

More than one million lone parents, thousands of young people leaving home and up to 150,000 recipients of industrial injuries benefits are to be hit in a fresh round of savings, which will in time take almost another £1bn a year out of the social security budget, according to the leaked correspondence from Peter Lilley to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

The freeze in lone parent premium and one parent benefit will hit well over one million single parents - depriving them of a 3.9 per cent inflation-linked increase next April. In addition, the £5.20-a-week lone parent premium paid to single parents on income support will be abolished for new cases.

The real terms cut in the value of benefits marks something of a departure for Mr Lilley, the Secretary of State for Social Security, who has argued that benefit rates "by and large" are "not hugely generous" and that they "don't enable people to live the life of Riley". In the main, his approach has been to restrict the numbers eligible for benefit rather than reduce the individual amounts paid.

### Plans to save £1bn in welfare payments will hit thousands, says Nicholas Timmins

The pressure for fresh cuts in social security is such, however, that Mr Lilley has agreed to savings which rise from £400m next year to £1bn a year in three years time, on top of the £4bn that the Government has already removed from the social security budget by the end of the century - chiefly by introducing the revamped incapacity benefit, the jobseeker's allowance, and cuts to housing benefit.

These, however, look set to go further, with Mr Lilley suggesting that in future those aged under 25 could be pressured to live in bedsits, flats or hostels, rather than in self-contained flats of their own, by restricting their housing benefit payments to the cost of shared accommodation. That would produce savings of £10m next year, rising to £65m a year by 1999, according to the letter.

The most controversial saving, however, will come from changes to lone parent pay-

ments. Almost one million people receive the non-means-tested one parent benefit of £6.30 a week, which is to be frozen. The means-tested lone parent premium, worth £5.20 a week and paid to people on income support, will also be frozen, while new claimants will no longer receive it.

Mr Lilley has also offered a saving on industrial injuries benefit which will cut the numbers receiving the reduced earnings allowance. That allowance - which makes up the difference between what a worker earned before their injury and what they can earn now - was abolished for new claimants in 1990, unless their injury occurred before then. It pays up to £38.12p a week to 150,000 claimants, but Mr Lilley's officials have now found a way of increasing the numbers who move off the supplement to the much lower retirement allowance. This pays only a maximum of £9.53 a week, or a quarter of the earnings allowance if it was less than the £38 maximum.

The housing charity Shelter protested that youngsters would be hard-hit if they were limited to shared accommodation.

## Wilson's papers for Bodleian

Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, the former prime minister who died in May, has left £490,992 in his will, published yesterday. Controversy over the role of Marcia Williams, his personal political secretary, followed him to the grave in a flurry of interest over a clause leaving "his political papers, correspondence, speeches and memoranda and all rights therein" to her, writes John Rentoul.

But it emerged that these personal papers are already being handed over to the Bodleian Library in Oxford "to be kept as part of the national heritage". Diana Rawstron, of solicitors Goodman Derrick, acting for Lord Wilson's estate, said: "It's a superfluous provision of the will. The papers were handed over about five years ago to a charitable trust, and they are in the process of being transferred to the Bodleian."

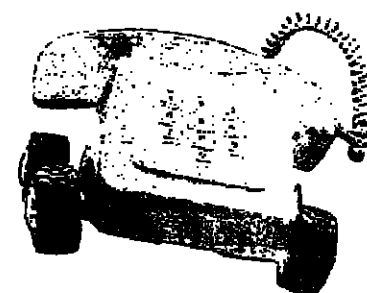
Marcia Williams, now Lady Falkender, named as Lord Wilson's literary executrix, supervised the handover. She "does not get a penny of benefit from it", said Mrs Rawstron. Lord Wilson's wife Mary inherits the estate, which includes a flat in London and a house in Selby.

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## news

Drama as witness collapses after telling of deal

# West's 'had secret pact to let Fred take all the blame'

WILL BENNETT

Rosemary and Fred West made a pact that he would take the blame for the Cromwell Street killings, a witness told Winchester Crown Court yesterday before collapsing.

Janet Leach, who suffered a stroke last year and who was visibly distressed as she gave evidence, was taken to hospital when she became unable to speak or move during the lunch break. The case was adjourned until today when the court will be told whether Mrs Leach, who became a confidant of Mr West after his arrest last year, is fit to resume giving evidence.

The court was also read a note yesterday from Fred West to his wife discovered in his prison cell after he was found hanged on New Year's Day.

Mrs Leach, 39, was being cross-examined by Richard Ferguson QC, for the defence, when the court broke. When the jury returned the judge told them of her collapse. A spokesman for the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, later described her condition as "satisfactory".

Mrs West, 41, denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at the Wests' house, 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at their previous home in the city. Mr West was charged with 12 murders.

Yesterday Mrs Leach, a mother of five, told the court how she had sat in on scores of police interviews with Mr West last year as an "appropriate adult". This is a system designed to provide an impartial witness and is commonly used when children are being questioned.

Mrs Leach spent much time talking to Mr West when police were not present and he told her a different story to that which he told detectives. "What he was saying in the interviews was not totally true, he was protecting Rosemary," said Mrs Leach, who was called by the prosecution to rebut taped interviews played to the court on Friday in

which Mr West said that his wife was not involved in the murders. "He just said that when he was arrested he wanted to know whether Rosemary had been let out because that was important to him because they had made a pact that he would take the blame for everything."

"If he was going to go into an interview and was going to talk a lot of nonsense he would tell me," said Mrs Leach.

She said he first told her about the pact a few days after his arrest. "Some of the things he said in the interviews he would change... but he said that he and Rosemary had made a pact and that Rosemary would never say anything."

Brian Leveson QC, for the



Janet Leach: Fred West told her of pact to let Rose escape

prosecution, asked: "At any stage did he ask whether Rosemary was out [of custody]?" Mrs Leach replied: "Yes. That was after about three or four days... When she was released he just said the plan was working."

Asked about Mr West's reaction when his wife was re-arrested, Mrs Leach replied: "He was upset and just said that the police were getting too close and that they would find out that Rosemary was involved."

Mrs Leach wept as she told the court she had been "devastated" by what he told her. She became ill after sitting in on interviews for three months. She said she had not told police at the time because she regarded

her conversations with Mr West as confidential and he said he would tell the truth at his trial. Mrs Leach kept in touch with Mr West and said she was "really angry" when he died because this left her to carry the burden of what he had told her. She sought legal advice and then went to the police.

Earlier Dr James McMaster, a medical officer at Winson Green prison, Birmingham, where Fred West was found hanged, said Mr West had told him he had lied to protect his wife, who had enjoyed cruelty.

Dr McMaster said he went to see Mr West in August last year because he was upset after a row with his solicitor. "He claimed he had been telling lies to the police," said Dr McMaster. "He said he felt his wife was responsible for restraining his daughters while they were raped... He said his wife was running a brothel from his house. He claimed that he was protecting her and was prepared to go to jail for life. He said that in the past his wife had tried to murder him by trying to stab him with a knife."

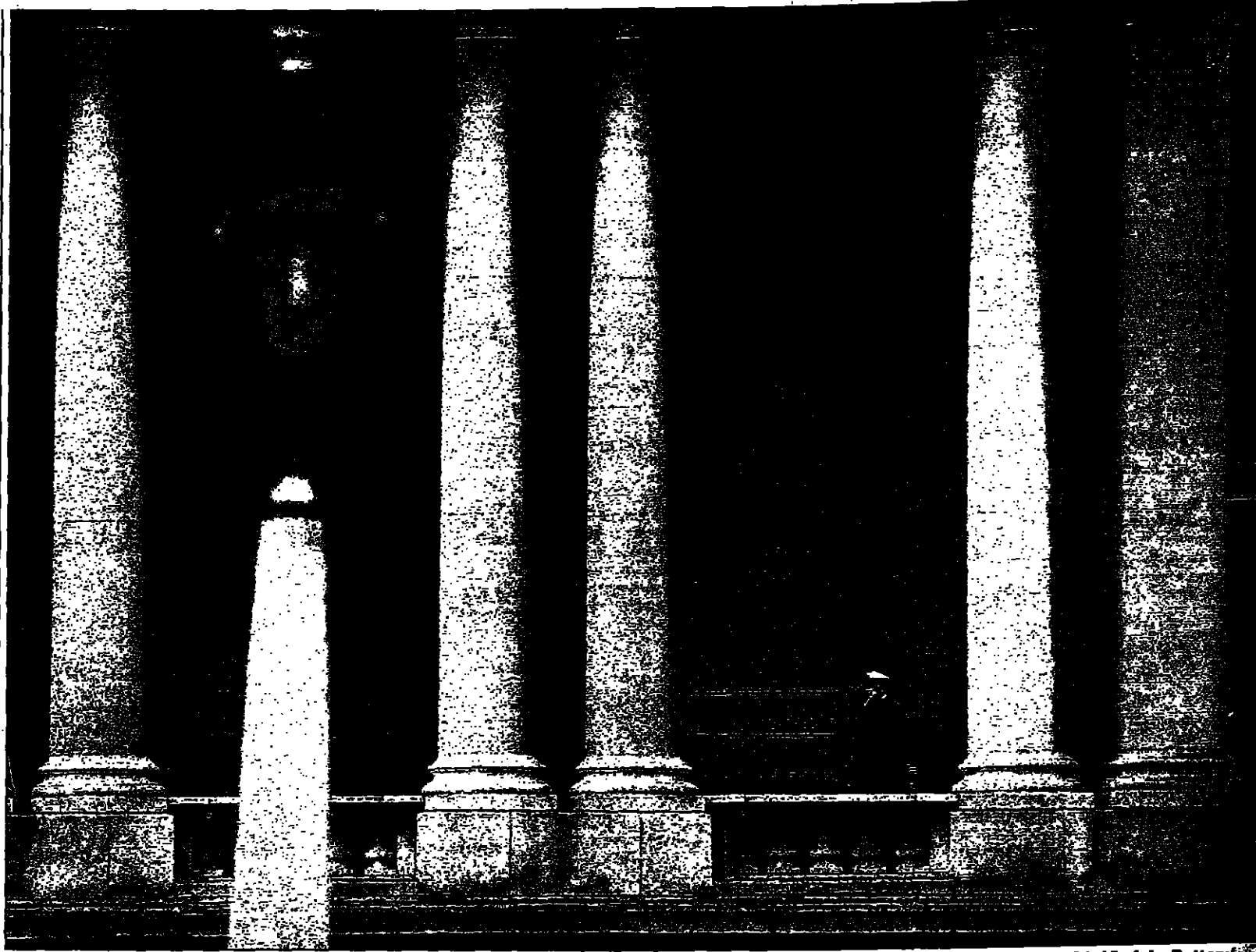
"He also claimed that his wife Rosemary enjoyed cruelty... He blamed his wife for sexually abusing the children and for using them for prostitution."

The court was read two notes found in Mr West's cell. One said: "Well Rose it's your birthday on 29 November 1994 and you will be 41 and still beautiful and still lovely and I love you."

"We will always be in love. The most wonderful thing in my life is [sic] when I met you. Our love was special to us so love keep your promises to me you know what they are. When we are put together it's up to you where."

"Lay Heather (their daughter who they were both charged with murdering) by us, we loved Heather."

The note concluded: "When you are ready come to me and I will be ready for you." Mr West then drew a gravestone with the epitaph: "Where no shadow falls in perfect peace."



Heritage debate: The Prince of Wales yesterday at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich, south-east London, which he visited with Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for Heritage, and Nicholas Soames, Armed Forces minister, to discuss its future. The historic site is up for sale. Photograph: Edward West

## Union leader refuses £9,000 pay increase

BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

The man yesterday elected leader of Britain's biggest union waived a £9,000 pay increase and warned Tony Blair he would not be in his pocket.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary-elect of Unison, the 1.4 million-strong public service union, said he was happy to remain on his salary of £55,236, and indicated strong points of difference with Labour.

Asked about the gap between his own politics and those of the privately educated Mr Blair, he said: "He didn't go to an infants school in Doncaster." The new Unison leader said his

relationship with the Labour leader was "new and developing" and that he did not want any "fisticuffs".

Mr Bickerstaffe said: "We are not in the pocket of the Labour Party, we are an independent trade union and we will continue to press those causes we believe in best, including a national minimum wage." Mr Bickerstaffe, 50, currently associate general secretary of the union, will take over the leadership in March at a time when Unison members are expected to vote more funds into Labour coffers, making the union the party's biggest affiliate.

The Unison election result was closer than expected with

Mr Bickerstaffe taking 47.7 per cent of the vote and his closest rival, Peter Hunter, who stood on an anti-abortion and "anti-political correctness" platform, receiving 29.3 per cent. Only around a fifth of the membership returned their ballot forms.

Asked why he was foregoing the £64,000 salary, to which he is entitled when he takes over as leader, Mr Bickerstaffe replied: "What you don't have, you don't miss. After 30 years in the movement, I am happy with the salary I've got." He said the gesture was not meant to be part of a "horse-hair-shirt revolution". He was "much younger in the job" than the 60-year-old current incumbent,

Alan Jinkinson. The decision to waive the salary increase comes in the wake of union revulsion over the increase in earnings enjoyed by directors of public utilities where Unison has a large membership.

The general secretary-elect warned that he would expect a future Labour government to remunerate public-sector workers "fairly". Some observers believe that the first industrial action to be suffered by a Labour government will come from Unison members whose wages have been held down.

Mr Bickerstaffe came to public notice during the 1979 "winter of discontent", when his union, NUPE, was held respon-

sible for a strike by gravediggers which left corpses unburied.

The new Unison leader was also blamed by close associates of Mr Blair for fomenting opposition to the Labour leader's plan to ditch the pro-nationalisation clause 4 of the party constitution. As a leader of Unison, Mr Bickerstaffe spoke against reform last April. But behind the scenes he argued that the union should support Mr Blair.

Although identified with the left in the Labour movement, he has met considerable suspicion from some hardliners. He came under fire for allowing NUPE, of which he was then general secretary, to abandon its policy of unilateral disarmament.

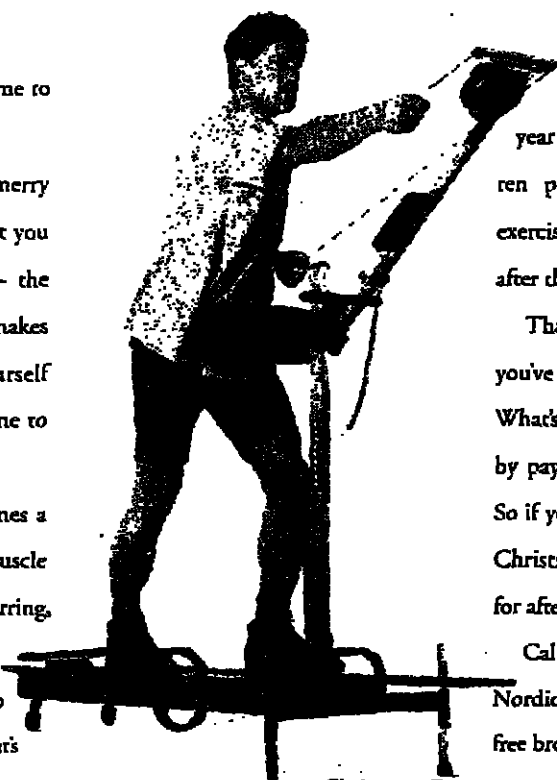
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## MPs' EARNINGS

## news

## Heseltine calls on reluctant Tories to comply with vote

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES  
and COLIN BROWN

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, was yesterday forced to urge reluctant Tory MPs to comply with the new rule on disclosure of earnings, amid signs of possible defiance. There were recriminations, too, directed at John Major for allowing the Government to be outflanked by Labour.

Meanwhile, a full-scale post-mortem was launched into one of the worst miscalculations by Government business managers in recent years.

Seething Tory MPs who voted against disclosure of earnings for parliamentary work were furious with the Prime Minister for getting them "into this mess" and sending morale back to rock-bottom. Sir Michael Neuber, the MP for Romford, and Euro-rebel Tony Marlow, who represents Northampton North, are among those who might defy the new ruling.

But Whitehall sources complained that insufficient intelligence had been gathered in advance of last Thursday's Prime Minister's Questions, when Mr Major unequivocally

came down against disclosure, only to be humiliated by a thumping 51-vote Labour majority on Monday night.

It was suggested yesterday that Government whips had too readily assumed that MPs who were not openly declaring their intending support for disclosure were against it, when in fact they were silently in favour.

The complaints reactivated criticisms that followed the defection of Alan Howarth, MP for Stratford-upon-Avon, to Labour on the eve of the Tory conference. Whips were accused then of failing to recognise the alarm bells when Mr Howarth failed to return their telephone calls.

Nor was enough done on the night, some MPs claimed yesterday. "They were reading papers when I went in," said one.

A Labour analysis of Monday night's humiliation revealed that the 23 Conservatives who voted for disclosure held proportionately less than half the number of paid parliamentary consultancies than those backbenchers who followed the Government line.

Those against disclosure have an average of 1.7 consultancies each, with those who abstained

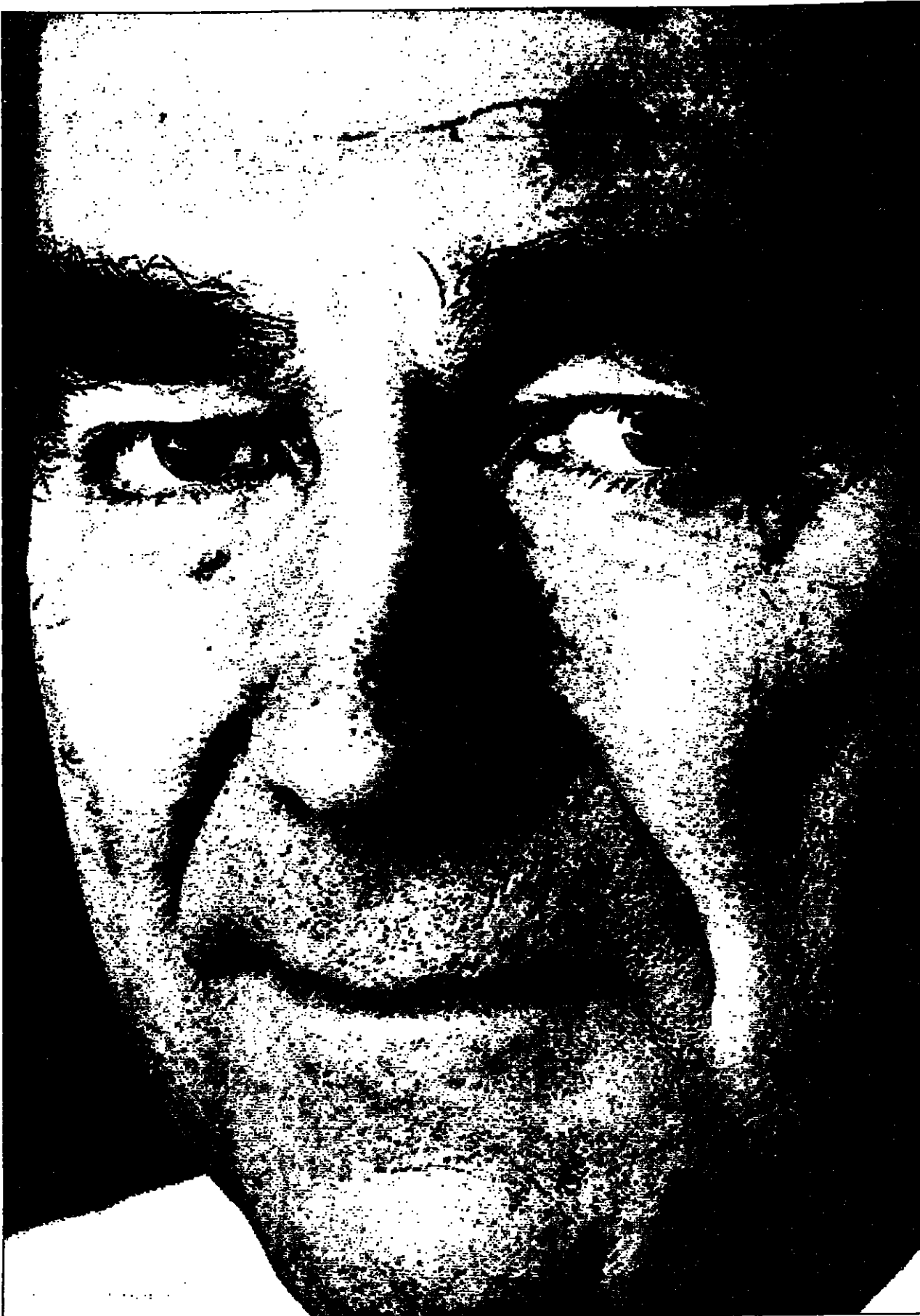
having an average of 1.6 each, compared with 0.7 for those in favour. Eleven of the 23 rebels also occupy marginal seats, which Labour claimed was an indication that its weekend offensive to win the vote had proved effective.

During a Prime Minister's Questions confrontation with Mr Heseltine, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, also underlined his party's commitment to persuading Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life to investigate party political funding as a matter of urgency. Lord Nolan has put off a decision on such an investigation until after the next general election.

"Why can't the public know where the Tory party gets its money from? Who has paid for a knighthood? Who has paid for a peerage? Which foreign businessmen have bankrolled the Tory party?"

The next stage of the implementation of the Nolan recommendations will be the arrival at Westminster of Sir Gordon Downey, the newly-appointed Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, when the new session of Parliament begins, next Wednesday.

## 'Sleaze-buster' faces a hostile reception

COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

The so-called "Sleaze-buster General", Sir Gordon Downey, 67, will face deep resentment among MPs on all sides when he takes up his position next Wednesday.

His appointment as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards deeply angered many MPs because of the size of his salary, £72,500 a year.

A total of 73 MPs opposed his appointment, put forward by the Liberal Democrat Alan Beith as chairman of the House of Commons Commission. Many were Tories but they included leading Liberal Democrats such as Sir David Steel.

Nicholas Winter, one of the Tory MPs who voted against the appointment, wondered what expertise Sir Gordon had for the job. *Hansard* yesterday recorded Labour MP Dennis Skinner's reply: "Bugger all."

In fact, Sir Gordon was highly respected as a watchdog on public spending as Comptroller and Auditor General. He served from 1981 to 1987 and became a thorn in the Thatcher Government's side.

Sir Gordon, a civil servant at the Treasury from 1952 to 1981, served as private secretary to three Chancellors, Butler, Macmillan and Thorneycroft, before serving in the Think Tank - the Central Policy Review Staff.

Concerned about the waste of taxpayers' money, he helped to create the National Audit Office by assisting Lord St John of Fawsley in drafting a private member's Bill which set it up. He showed his independence from the Thatcher Government by blazing a trail for the NAO, whose reports go to the Public Accounts Committee.

As someone with a proven record in uncovering fraud, he was regarded by Labour as a natural choice for the task of enforcing the new rules on the disclosure of earnings, and policing the system.

Since his retirement he has held a number of posts including commissioner of appeals on cases concerning the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers, complaints commissioner for the Securities Association and the International Stock Exchange, chairman of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association; chairman of the Personal Investment Authority; and readers' ombudsman for the *Independent*.

Hot seat: Sir Gordon Downey, whose £72,000 salary has angered a number of MPs

Photograph: Steve Morgan

## What MPs can and can't do\*

ACTIVITY	ALLOWED/BANNED? (subject to appropriate compensation, new electoral code and decisions of new select committees)
MP A, paid consultant to engineering trade association expressly recruited to promote organisation's commercial interests via speeches, questions or amendments	Banned: specific sectional interest
MP B, paid parliamentary consultant to police service union, wants to put down Commons motion opposing reducing police officers' union rights	Banned: not a general policing issue - but many examples of advocacy will be allowed, such as over manpower levels and possibly even pay because of public interest in officer morale. Some may argue the latter is a "grey" area that should go to the commissioner.
MP C, indirectly sponsored through constituency payments by firefighters' union, asked to put down Commons motion on safety regulations	Allowed: a question of public policy and constituency safety; sponsorship agreement would have to be lodged and value declared as above
MP D, front bench health spokesperson, whose parliamentary researcher is paid for by health workers' union, plans to lead debate on "privatisation" of NHS	Allowed: general health service issue? Tories might claim this is a "grey area". Labour would argue that contracting out parts of the NHS is a genuine public policy issue and/or one directly affecting constituents. Financial agreement would have to be lodged in the normal way
MP E, paid parliamentary adviser to charity for elderly people, wants to advise on progress of planned social security changes	Allowed: contract must be lodged and income declared because MP working in his or her capacity as a member
MP F, paid parliamentary consultant to Midlands motor traders' association, wants to speak on Japanese car imports	Allowed: of genuine interest to constituents? But some might argue it's a grey area because of the commercial factor
MP G, paid consultant/adviser to doctors' professional association, plans to lead delegation to Health Secretary about doctors' working hours	Banned: specific sectional interest? Could be grey area, if member believes, for example, that patients at risk, but doctors belong to a "closed shop" so that argument could fall down: there is no bar on an informal approach to the minister, however, nor at present on the MP writing him a letter; consultancy must be registered in usual way

\* fictional examples of organisations

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## news

**Gulf War Syndrome: MPs 'appalled' at reluctance of ministers to address veterans' concerns over effects of drugs they took**



Living testament: Eddie Blench, who claims to have suffered illness since the Gulf war, at the press conference yesterday. Photograph: Dillon Bryden

## MoD accused of turning blind eye to stricken troops

MARY BRAID

Defence ministers were yesterday castigated by a cross-party committee of MPs for their "appalling" reluctance to investigate "Gulf War Syndrome" and a slow and inadequate response to hundreds of veterans who claim to be suffering from the illness.

The Defence Select Committee took the rare step of calling a press conference after its own year-long investigation, which concluded the MoD had been "quick to deny but to slow to investigate" the syndrome which, it is claimed, has affected more than 700 veterans and caused rare abnormalities to 40 Gulf war babies.

In a report that some members claimed toned down their outrage at the Ministry of Defence, the MPs unanimously dismissed ministers' claims of a lack of evidence to link Gulf service and reported illnesses as merely a reflection of the fact that they had carried out so little research.

The report claimed that the MoD's response stood in stark contrast to that of the US military authorities, which had launched a full epidemiological study and were already paying interim compensation to veterans. While the committee judged the US response "compassionate", it dismissed the MoD's response as reactive rather than pro-active and "characterised throughout by scepticism, defensiveness and general torpor".

The committee is demanding a comprehensive and properly funded MoD investigation into the illness, which some experts believe may be linked to the cocktail of anti-chemical and biological warfare drugs and immunisations administered to British and American servicemen and women in the Gulf.

Some have reported being immunised up to nine times in one day against a range of potential dangers, including anthrax and bubonic plague. In the US, large numbers of Gulf veterans claim to be suffering from a range of symptoms, from severe weight and memory loss to chronic fatigue,

dizziness and swollen joints. But there have been no reported cases among French troops, who did not receive the drugs or immunisations.

Menzies Campbell, a Liberal Democrat committee member, said the MoD had had to be "pushed, kicking and screaming" towards new initiatives. The Labour MP Bruce George, who admitted initial scepticism about the syndrome, was upset by the MoD's "cavalier" attitude and warned that if it did not respond positively to the report, Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, would be brought before the committee.

But Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, attacked the report as "unhelpful and disappointing". He denied that the department had been complacent. "We retain an open mind on this issue."

Major Hilary Jones, who served in the Gulf for three months, believes that the illness that has since forced her to leave her post as a military nurse can be traced to the war. Once on a salary of £25,000 a year, she is now surviving on benefits.

The committee singled out the drug pyridostigmine bromide. It found it "incredible" that the drug took 12 years to be fully licensed in Britain. "We are not convinced that the drug was adequately tested in the UK for use over long periods in the type of conditions prevalent in the Gulf."

## Editor died from cocaine overdose

A hard-working and hard-playing magazine editor died from a massive cocaine overdose, an inquest was told yesterday.

Michael VerMeulen, editor of the top-selling men's magazine Q, was taken to hospital on 29 August when a friend noticed he had vomited in his sleep and could not wake him.

The 38-year-old editor, of Islington, north London, was pronounced dead at Whittington Hospital. His heart had stopped after he had taken twice the lethal level of the drug, David Brown, a pathologist, told St Pancras Coroner's Court.

Danielle Minns, who described herself as a close friend, had spent the previous night with VerMeulen and said he had drunk wine, beer and brandy during the night. She assumed that he had taken cannabis when he told her he had smoked a drug, and she said she had no idea that he had in fact snorted cocaine.

Stephen Chan, the coroner, said: "I understand the deceased was a person who had a big appetite for work and play - living life in the fast lane for the moment."

"To colleagues he may have been a larger-than-life hero but others may have looked at



VerMeulen: 'Life in fast lane'

him in a less complimentary light. He was very popular in the various clubs he belonged to. He worked very long hours and was generally thought to be a man about town and a heavy drinker."

Recording a verdict of death by misadventure, Dr Chan said: "All the evidence satisfies me entirely that the consideration of a suicide verdict is totally inappropriate."

"There is no evidence that the deceased used cocaine regularly or habitually but I am satisfied he was conscious of what he was doing on that fatal morning. This rather excessive level pushed him beyond his physical tolerance - ending in tragedy."

### DAILY POEM

#### Hybrid Tea Roses at the Unmanned Railway Halt

By Michael Hamburger

How different here, gift from one long dead  
Received in a parcel from nowhere.  
Absence that still meets the season  
With a white, a yellow, a pink, a magenta  
Half nature only in kind but now released  
From all culture's will and care.

Through a scrub of bullace suckers,  
Mixed grasses, cleaver, yes, and reverted briar  
They've pushed the heavy-petalled  
Packed finery of their buds.  
Opened them, too, with the silk untorn.  
In a respite out of time  
Owed less to the rails, in use yet for a while,  
Than to a good brick wall  
Which of the border that was their bed  
Has made a mausoleum  
Where, left for dead, they refuse to die;  
And by defiance have proved themselves  
The nature they never were,  
Outgrown the loving eye  
They needed once as a mirror.

However late the train,  
Few notice them in passing,  
But let them be, in their limbo no longer human.

Michael Hamburger, poet and translator, was born in Berlin in 1924 and emigrated to Britain, with his family, in 1933. He read modern languages at Oxford, where he was a contemporary of Larkin, and was published first as a translator of the German poetic canon and as a literary critic. His *Collected Poems 1941-1983*, however, appeared in 1984. A new edition, published by Arvon Press at £25, updates this collection - delightfully described, for its quiet cadences and assonances as "unfashionable as birdsong" - with a resonant cycle of dream and nature poems.

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**Pornography debate: Artist highlights newsreader's case as clear illustration of regressive trend towards cultural censorship**

## Hockney attacks 'philistines' over Somerville arrest

DAVID LISTER  
Arts Correspondent

David Hockney, arguably Britain's best-known living artist, yesterday entered the controversy over the arrest of newsreader Julia Somerville and her partner, architect Jeremy Dixon, for taking pictures of her naked child.

Hockney started a press conference called to publicise his forthcoming exhibition at the Royal Academy by making a swinging attack on Scotland Yard, Boots the Chemist, and on Parliament for framing "philistine laws on pictures".

And in a theatrical gesture, he produced from his pocket a postcard of an 18th-century painting of a half-naked young girl, lying in bed, with her legs in the air, stroking her dog. The painting was by the French artist, Fragonard.

The press conference started calmly enough, with Hockney in fine form, joking about his life and how he liked to live and work quietly, often bypassing London when he flew from Los Angeles to visit his 95-year-old mother, by flying to Humber via Amsterdam.

Asked about contemporary art in Britain and moves away from painting and drawing, he replied: "It was sad when they abandoned certain kinds of teaching of craft. I pointed out

where it might lead. I recently saw the show of young artists at the Tate. There were no warm depictions of a human being."

Then, to the surprise of the packed room, he went on: "The person who was trying to make warm depictions of a human being was arrested by the police."

There's something deeply wrong and deeply odd that this happens to someone who tried to make a depiction of a human being. You are supporting the police doing that. I'm not. I am criticising it. The desire to make depictions of a human being is a common thing, part of a great tradition in art. It goes back hundreds of years.

Later, Hockney was asked about photography, and again he brought the subject back to the Somerville arrest. He said: "People are very naive about photography. I think they are very naive about photography at Scotland Yard, frankly."

"I've looked up quite a few of the restrictions which Parliament has on pictures. I've a picture in my pocket of a little girl, about 12, or 13, or 14, in a very, very provocative pose. If I described that to Scotland Yard they would come over right now. I think something is wrong in Boots too and I don't mind saying so."

"Parliament are philistines, people who are not concerned with beauty, not concerned with

the things I am. Scotland Yard do not really like pictures. That's the point."

Hockney called on the Royal Academy, of which he is a member, to make a stand on the issue. Royal Academy secretary Piers Rogers said he was considering holding a debate on the restrictions on pictures.

The exhibition, David Hockney - A Drawing Retrospective, starts at the Royal Academy on Thursday and runs until 28 January. It is the first exhibition on this scale devoted to his works on paper. Some of the 176 drawings, watercolours, photo-collages and sketch books, gathered from around the world, have never been exhibited.



Art of the matter: David Hockney strongly defended the rights of all to 'make depictions of human beings'

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid



Julia Somerville: Photographs of child led to controversy

## Questionnaire reveals a nation of form-fillers

GLENDIA COOPER

Britain is a nation of form-fillers. Every year consumers complete 49 million applications, fill out 54 million forms for money-off coupons and respond to 38 million market-research questionnaires.

But according to a report by the Henley Centre, launched during National Consumer Week, few companies then bother to analyse this data properly and risk alienating customers by not explaining why information is collected.

Around 1,500 people were interviewed for the Dataculture report on giving out personal information. The study describes 80 per cent of us as "pragmatists" - concerned about protecting privacy but accepting we must trade information for better service, money off, information or tailored products.

Only 9 per cent are "fundamentalists" - unwilling to surrender personal information for any reason. And at the other extreme a radical 8 per cent "don't care who holds information about them".

Information that people are willing to give out is arranged in a strict hierarchy. Unsurprisingly, the three most private areas are personal income (which only 16 per cent would give out), household income (13 per cent) and personal investments and savings (11 per cent).

However, 9 out of 10 are willing to provide their name and 80 per cent will hand over their post code.

More than three-quarters will also volunteer information on their marital status, television viewing, job and even their age.

Around 67 per cent will reveal their religion while more people are willing to give out their weight (56 per cent) than their work telephone number (30 per cent) or their political allegiance (40 per cent).

But the majority of consumers are not confident that companies will stick to the law on data protection. Under the 1984 Data Protection Act, a company cannot pass on a customer's name without notifying the individual concerned.

More than 70 per cent felt it was inevitable companies would find out things about them and just over a quarter believed most companies abide by the Data Protection Act (most do).

One of the main complaints was list-swapping within companies. Three-quarters of consumers understand that if they tick an opt-out box on questionnaires their names should not be passed on but fewer than a quarter believe such requests are honoured.

Three-quarters of companies hold a customer database with just 7 per cent of utilities and 18 per cent of financial services firms claiming to be without one. Consumer goods and travel firms are least likely to have a customer database.

However, only 13 per cent of the sample had fully integrated their databases and only 7 per cent had a manager in charge of running the facility.

"Few companies in the sample were using databases on a strategic planning level or for customer value analysis or satisfaction surveys," said Melanie Howard, head of marketing studies at the Henley Centre. "This suggests that the potential contribution of database marketing to improving market share and customer retention have not been realised."

The report concludes that companies need to allow customers to have greater control over information - such as telling them what details are held and allowing them to check. "Longer term the fact information is not being used properly is making them suspicious," said Ms Howard.

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DEAL

**YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.**

Credit is only available to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Leadenhall, London EC3A 3BP. Security and insurance are required. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office, 41 Leadenhall, London EC3A 3BP. The total amount payable would be £148,745.20 gross, including £38.70 valuation fee, £12.50 estimated legal fees, £20.00 remittance fee and £250 arrangement fee at an interest rate of 7.70%, 8.0% APR. This fixed rate only applies where the amount borrowed represents no more than 75% of the purchase price or valuation, whichever is the lower. We have calculated this example on the basis that interest will be charged at the same fixed rate for the full term of the mortgage. In fact this fixed rate is only until 30 November 2000. After this date you may decide to remain on the variable floating rate for the rest of the mortgage term or you may agree a new rate which is likely to be different to this fixed rate offer. There will be a charge if or any time prior to the end of 30 November 2000 you wish to repay the whole or any part of your mortgage, or want to transfer your mortgage from the fixed rate terms agreed, to, for example, a discount rate or any other mortgage term or you may agree a new rate which is likely to be different to this fixed rate offer. There will be a charge if or any time prior to the end of 30 November 2000 you wish to repay the whole or any part of your mortgage, or want to transfer your mortgage from the fixed rate terms agreed, to, for example, a discount rate or any other mortgage term or you may agree a new rate which is likely to be different to this fixed rate offer. 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The aftermath: Peres promises to continue the peace process as talks proceed on Israeli withdrawal from West Bank town



Two Israeli women observe a moment's silence at the spot, to be renamed Yitzhak Rabin Square, where the prime minister was shot

Photograph: AP

## Widow blames Likud violence

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

Israel is to move ahead with the next stage of its withdrawal from the West Bank amid a growing row over the role of Likud, the main right-wing party, in fuelling the political violence which culminated in the

assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Israeli and PLO officers met in the northern town of Jenin to work out details of the handover of the first West Bank town to come under Palestinian self-rule since Rabin reached agreement on the latest stage of the Oslo accords. Shimon Peres, the acting prime minister, said: "I

shall continue the process of peace that we have started."

Rabin's widow, Leah, has directly accused Likud and its leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, of stirring up hatred which led to her husband's death. She said that at the funeral she did not want to accept Mr Netanyahu's condolences, but shook his hand anyway because she did not want to make a scene.

"Yes, surely I blame them," Mrs Rabin said at her home. "If you ever heard their speeches at the Knesset [Parliament] you would understand what I mean. They were very, very violent in their expressions. We are selling the country down the drain. There will be no Israel after this peace agreement."

Mr Netanyahu said he did not take what Mrs Rabin said to heart because she was in deep grief. He added: "These attacks have out of this, to try to say it is the responsibility of the Likud, are like asking whether Lee Harvey Oswald was a Republican or a Democrat and then blaming the party." Other Likud leaders say that 50 per cent of Israelis were with them in opposing the Oslo accords.

but Labour supporters have asked why posters showing Mr Rabin's face superimposed on a gun target were allowed at Likud rallies.

After talks with John Major, one of the many foreign leaders who attended Rabin's funeral on Monday, Mr Peres said the withdrawal of Israeli troops from West Bank Arab towns and villages would go ahead on schedule. The pullout is to be

a prize to the assassins, that they can stop everything by killing the Prime Minister?

Amid controversy over security lapses which allowed Yigal Amir, the assassin, to get close to Rabin, Israel has started a clampdown against known members of extreme Jewish organisations. Avishai Raviv, head of the far-right group, Eyal, who praised Mr Amir immediately after Mon-

day's funeral, spoke to Israeli army radio from hiding to say he feared arrest. While denying any involvement in the killing of the Prime Minister, he admitted that Mr Amir was a member of his organisation.

Fresh details of Rabin's last moments have also emerged from his driver, Menachem Damati says Mr Amir shouted as he raised his hand to shoot: "It's nothing... they are not real bullets." Mr Damati did not say

### Why were posters with Rabin's face superimposed on a gun target allowed at Likud rallies?

largely complete by the end of the year. Israel has also eased the closure of the West Bank and Gaza.

Meanwhile Yossi Beilin, the Economics Minister, discouraged speculation that Mr Peres might seek to bring forward the general election, due next October, to capitalise on the sympathy for Rabin and his policies. "Why should we advance the elections after what happened?" he asked. "Why should we give

day's funeral, spoke to Israeli army radio from hiding to say he feared arrest. While denying any involvement in the killing of the Prime Minister, he admitted that Mr Amir was a member of his organisation.

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## Rifkind tries to quell exile row

MICHAEL SHERIDAN  
Jeddah

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday spearheaded a damage-limitation exercise to soothe Saudi Arabia's anger over the activities of dissidents based in London.

A constant stream of propaganda and agitation from exiles opposed to the Saudi royal family has infuriated senior princes, and local businessmen believe lucrative British contracts could be at risk.

According to reliable sources, both the Interior Minister, Prince Nayef, and the Defence Minister, Prince Sultan, have expressed the desire to favour other countries over Britain in the allocation of future government business.

The issue of the dissidents was raised during the first round of talks here yesterday between

the Foreign Secretary and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Saud al-Faisal.

The Saudis want Britain to crack down on a prominent figure in the opposition, Professor Mohammed Masari, who fled the kingdom last year. He has lodged an appeal with the Home Office after his application for political asylum was rejected.

Mr Masari is a self-proclaimed revolutionary who wants to replace the Saudi monarchy, which he denounces as corrupt and illegitimate, with a government adhering to the pure principles of Islam.

Mr Masari has set up the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, in north London, from where he bombards supporters in the kingdom with faxes and telephone calls. One or two individuals in London are given an impor-

tant far more than they deserve by the media," Mr Rifkind said after the talks. "We have no time for those who are making mischief."

British officials said both sides had agreed that the Masari affair should not affect the "perception which surrounds the relationship between Britain and Saudi Arabia". They were also at pains to represent the discussions as a dialogue in which the Saudis were aware of the mutual benefits of the relationship. The Foreign Secretary repeated the line that the British Government can take no measures against Mr Masari unless he breaks the law.

"We take action against people on the basis of their deeds, not their opinions," Mr Rifkind told a local interviewer. "If people have opinions, we may disapprove of them or dislike

them intensely but our society is such that that is something which is tolerated."

These explanations, however, have failed to make much of an impression on the absolute monarchy which governs Saudi Arabia. It is also hard for British diplomats to gauge the level of support for the dissidents in a society notable for its reticence, and carefully monitored by the secret police. Several radical clerics were detained last year after disturbances in the northern town of Bureidah, while economic austerity measures were damaging the monarchy's customary use of financial benevolence to shore up its authority.

But there have been no recent reports of trouble, while a slight rise in oil prices over the last year has enabled the government to benefit from an improved economic climate.

## Why Rabin will be mourned by no Palestinians

Beirut — Did any Palestinians shed tears as they watched Yitzhak Rabin's funeral? "You won't find a single one," a survivor of the 1948 exodus said in Beirut. "For you, Rabin was the warrior for peace. To us, he was the man who drove the Palestinians out of Lydda in 1948 — 50,000 of them by our count, a catastrophic event at that time. For the West Bankers, he was the man who ordered the 'bone-breaking' of the intifada uprising. You remember his peace-making with Arafat. We remember criminal acts."

It sounded ungenerous, cruel, after the grief at the cemetery outside Jerusalem, shown live across Lebanon as television stations lifted CNN's coverage of Rabin's funeral. But the tragedy of the Palestinians is not going to be mitigated by the murder of an Israeli prime minister by an Israeli Jew. The old Damascus rejectionists — the Palestinian popular fronts and the struggle fronts and the other corrupted revolutionary cliques of the PLO — were yesterday still mouthing threats against Yasser Arafat, who, according to the tired statement of the Ahmed Jibril's "General Command", will surely share Rabin's fate. But Mr Arafat's fate could be infinitely more long-drawn-out.

For, despite the predictable talk of redeedication to peace, the man who shook Rabin's unwilling hand in Washington two years ago is unlikely to reap any benefits from the murder. As one of Mr Arafat's former political comrades in the Palestine National Council commented bleakly, he will be confronted by a new and weaker Shimon Peres. "Arafat will receive a visit from Peres soon," the Palestinian said.

"And he will appeal to Arafat for more concessions. 'We always told you we had to appease our right wing,' Peres will tell Arafat. 'Now Rabin has been killed and you realise how serious our situation is. So we need more concessions. That is what Arafat faces.'"

West Bankers and Gaza Palestinians have little reason to believe in the optimism expressed by the dignitaries on Mount Herzl. Five thousand families are still waiting for their sons, brothers and husbands to be released from Israeli prisons. The remainder still have no idea of a "peace" timetable. Indeed, the repeated delays in implementing the accords so solemnly sworn between Mr Arafat and Rabin mean that neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis have any idea what the future holds. Mr Peres has confirmed a timetable for Palestinian "redeployment" and Palestinian elections. But timetables have been changed before.

And Rabin left Israel insisting that Jerusalem would remain its eternal capital — which is not what Mr Arafat had in mind for

the final-status peace talks.

Yet perhaps the Palestinians are in danger of over-simplifying events in Israel, of falling into the same trap as the rest of the world, encouraged by statesmen and journalists to believe that the killing of Rabin is some kind of freak event. For Palestinians in Beirut who did not choose to gloat over Rabin's death, his murder represents the culmination of a battle between the theological and ideological pillars of Israel which began, in Palestinian eyes, with the capture of Jerusalem and the West Bank in the 1967 war.

Until then, the biblical Zionists were content with the political project of the Zionist movement for a homeland. Mr Arafat's old cronies said, "But after 1967, these same people made real demands to live on the newly captured territory. There was a kind of unwritten alliance between them and the secular Israelis. They co-operated, up to a point, Rabin too. But there were two options and eventually they would come into conflict. We Palestinians ignored this inter-Jewish battle. Rabin thought he could be smart enough to compromise with both, seeking peace with us but allowing the fanatical, religious settlers to stay and build bigger settlements on our land. They didn't trust him or his 'peace process'. That's why he was shot."

The Hebrew-language press does not circulate in the Arab world but several Palestinian journalists noticed an article in *Yediot Aharanot* which stated that on the morning after Rabin's murder, "Israelis woke up in a different country". The paper, according to a Palestinian who can travel regularly to the West Bank from Lebanon, was right. "It is a crossroads. There have been important Israeli leaders who have died when the state of Israel was militarily much weaker than it is now. Ben-Gurion, Chaim Weizman, Golda Meir. But Rabin was murdered by his own people. That is the point. The conflict has reached an intersection. Things can never be the same again within Israeli society."

Or within Palestinian society. Under continued Israeli occupation, under Mr Arafat's rule and in the diaspora, the Palestinians can do little but watch this conflict play itself out, all the while fearing that Mr Arafat will accept more delays, less "redeployment", will demand fewer withdrawals in order to help Mr Peres survive. Meanwhile, those who are waiting for the "peace process" to collapse will rejoice each time a Yigal Amir steps forward. As Faisal Hussein, the shrewdest of Mr Arafat's stalwarts observed, Palestinian extremists and Israeli extremists "encourage each other".

Robert Fisk



Hard line: Yasser Arafat at a Cairo news conference, where he urged Israel to get tough with its extremists

## For Saudi Arabia, religion holds the key

Jeddah — There was, of course, just one lead story on the front pages of most Saudi Arabian newspapers yesterday.

King Fahd, passing the late summer in this sweltering city on the Red Sea, has hailed the role of the industrial sector in boosting development and commended the efforts of the petrochemical and refining industries.

But next to the Saudi monarch's lengthy and optimistic pronouncements, readers could digest news-agency accounts of the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin.

The satellite dishes that blossom on balconies and rooftops across Saudi cities allowed many of the kingdom's 12 million citizens to watch the sad ceremonies in Jerusalem and, indeed, to witness the attendance not only of Egypt's Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Hussein, but also of emissaries from Saudi Arabia's Gulf neighbours, Oman and Qatar.

The Saudi newspapers directly made no mention of the

Michael Sheridan, in the first of a series on Arab reaction to Yitzhak Rabin's killing, finds just how deep is the divide between Israel and the Muslim world

Omani and Qatari presence, no doubt judging it a little too sensitive for readers who abhor Israel as a Zionist abomination. The symbolic barriers may slowly be coming down across the Middle East. But in Saudi Arabia, the wealthiest Arab country, with 25 per cent of the world's oil reserves, it is starkly evident how deep are the wells of distrust and how fundamental the divide between Israel and the Muslim world.

Yesterday morning, the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud al-Faisal, told Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, that the Kingdom would continue its quiet efforts behind the scenes to encourage Arab countries to pursue the peace process. Prince Saud believes Rabin's untimely death may offer Syria and Israel an opportunity to break the deadlock in talks over the Golan Heights. Saudi Arabia fears that without

a rapid move to reinvigorate the negotiations, Syria's President Hafez al-Assad may let the moment pass. No doubt Saudi diplomacy and funds will now be applied to the arts of persuasion in Damascus.

But, just like President Assad, Saudi Arabia itself has no in-

### The Middle East after Rabin

tention of making the public gestures of reconciliation to which leaders such as King Hussein have become accustomed. Leading members of the royal family have angrily, if privately, rebuffed as "naïve" American entreaties to do so. There is a simple self-preserving reason for their stance.

If the Palestinian dispute with Israel is essentially about the division of land, the Saudi aversion to Zionism springs from religion.

In 1986 King Fahd decided to relinquish the title of "His Majesty" and to adopt instead the honorific of "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques," thereby reiterating in every official document and deed his family's rule over the sacred shrines of Mecca and Medina. These religious obligations help to legitimise the absolute monarchy and grant Saudi Arabia a paramount status among the Islamic nations.

It is Jewish control over the Muslim holy places of Jerusalem — the Temple Mount (the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims) and the Aqsa Mosque — which embitters the zealous and godless monarchy to a position of resolute isolation from direct contacts with the

Israelis. Thus, while Yasser Arafat can take small comfort from the acquisition of Palestinian territory, the Saudi monarchy can see no benefit to Muslims until the issue of Jerusalem comes under discussion in the "Permanent Status negotiations," due to start in May next year but likely to be delayed.

"Saudi Arabia made no comment on the death of Rabin and I would not expect them to," said a diplomat in Jeddah. "They don't like to talk about it," observed a local newspaperman. "It is all right for Saudis to see it all on television so long as the kingdom is not brought in to the picture."

King Fahd and the dynastic system face criticism from Islamist critics, who deride the monarchy as corrupt, condemn its political proximity to the Western powers and demand its unflinching adherence to the

Sharia religious law. The Saudi government has responded by rounding up and arresting radical clergyman.

But it has simultaneously established a consultative council to mitigate discontent among the merchant class, which predominates in Jeddah, and endowed ever more mosques to satisfy the Wahhabi fundamentalists who hold sway in the desert capital of Riyadh.

As an example to all concerned, Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz, the Interior Minister, has overseen an intimidating number of executions by beheading in the last year. The sensitive interplay in Saudi society between the monarchy, the Islamic ulama, or clergy, and popular opinion provides perhaps the textbook example of how the Arab-Israeli conflict still profoundly affects the whole region.

"The problems were not solved with Arafat's agreement," said a Saudi official yesterday. "Perhaps they are just beginning."

### ADVERTISEMENT

INTERPOL TO JOIN INVESTIGATION AFTER YARD ADMITS BEING 'ALL AT SEA'

## TRAIL GOES COLD IN HUNT FOR ALMERA HEISTERS

Scotland Yard have admitted that they have asked INTERPOL to help them solve last week's mysterious high sea heist in which a ship carrying more than £50 million worth of new Nissan Almeras disappeared.

Inspector Doyle, who is leading the inquiry, said "To be honest, we are all at sea. A heist of this magnitude and complexity could only have been planned and executed by someone with enormous power and wealth. No one on our files fits that description, which is why we have asked INTERPOL for their help."

Nissan's cargo ship 'The City of Sunderland' was sailing through the Bay of Biscay when it disappeared from radar screens late last Tuesday night. Police have now confirmed reports that a local fishing boat spotted another much larger ship in the near vicinity, but that it failed to appear on radar. "The idea that one ship could swallow another is not beyond the bounds of credibility," a spokesman said. "However, the thought that this larger ship may have been in possession of some sort of futuristic cloaking device has us very worried indeed."

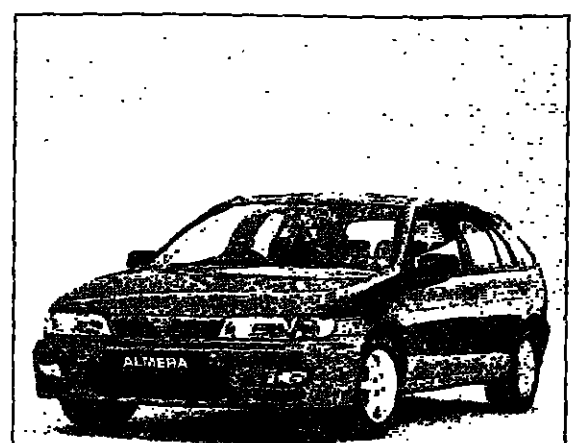
The motive behind the

mysterious hijack is still unclear. Police have already dismissed the theory that the Almera heist was orchestrated by a rival manufacturer as 'baldersdash', although they readily admit that the Almera boasts levels of comfort and technology not normally associated with a family hatchback. In particular the Almera's Multilink Beam Suspension, which comes straight from Nissan's top of the range QX, and the three year or 60,000 mile warranty.



Chief Inspector Doyle hopes INTERPOL will shed new light on heist

Any member of the public wishing for further information on the new Almera should call 0345 66 99 66.



Nissan's new Almera: 5,594 were onboard the hijacked ship



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## international



Lenin's disciples: Communists marching in Moscow to mark the 78th anniversary of the 1917 Revolution

Photograph: Viktor Korotayev/Reuters

## Red flags fly as Bolsheviks' heirs honour revolution

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Take a giant skittle, put it in a blue peaked hat and a greatcoat and place it under the statue of Karl Marx opposite the Bolshoi Theatre on a freezing winter's morning in the middle of Moscow. Draw in a strip of grey hair, eyes and a clutch of shoul-der pips, and there would stand Colonel Valeriy Borisovich Stepanov.

Beyond him in the square were about 5,000 others, a fraction of the number who spent yesterday's holiday at Communist-organised rallies, ostensibly to mark the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution but really to listen to contemporary arguments about what to do about the evils of the free market, the mafia, poverty, crime and the West.

Communists are not what they used to be, the colonel lamented, as he looked at the crowd of mostly elderly people who had weathered the terrors of Stalinism but who had forgotten, or never knew, how bad they were. The occasional portrait of Josef Vissarionovich bobbed around amid the bright red flags.

The trouble was that all the good party workers were sent to the front during the Great Patriotic War, leaving dregs, drunks and no-hopers behind, he moaned. Yet he felt Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, who stood a few yards away, was a "good man".

Strange this, from someone who appears to be a military hardliner, that breed of Communist which has never accepted *perestroika*, or what followed. Did he not mind that Mr Zyuganov, whose party leads the opinion polls for next month's parliamentary elections and who is seen as a presidential candidate, calls himself a progressive and hob-nobs with Western businessmen and politicians? "What's wrong with that? Stalin sat down with Churchill and Roosevelt, didn't he?" he replied.

Mr Zyuganov himself toed his usual pragmatic line. "It's wonderful to see the open, honest faces of people who have never betrayed the highest ideals of goodness and justice, the red flag... and the best ideals of Communism," he said, in his monotonic baritone.

Above the crowd's steamy breath flashed a giant electronic board - another reminder of how changed Russia is. It carried an advertisement from a rival party, the centrist "Our Home Is Russia".

As his speech closed, there were cheers. But not from everyone. Russia's Communists have their internal rivalries. "Zyuganov is just afraid of the international imperialists and the forces of capitalism," Viktor Ampilov, head of the Russian Communist Workers' Party, said afterwards. "He believes there is a middle way. But we believe there should be no compromise in the struggle against exploitation."

There was probably loudest applause for Bill Davis, of the Workers' World Party's New York branch, who called for the Soviet Union to "rise again". The colonel and the other military men beneath the statue of Marx looked pleased.

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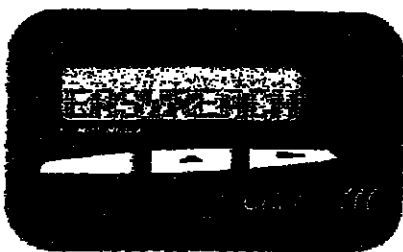
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## WASHINGTON DAYS

### Be grateful for the official welcome, buddy

It wasn't until right at the very end of a trip to Montreal a couple of weeks ago that I came across the first plausible argument in favour of independence for Quebec, Canada. I discovered, is a colony of the United States.

After I had checked in at Montreal Airport for my flight home to Washington I had to go through immigration control. I unsuspectingly handed over my passport to a uniformed woman behind a high white desk. I had 20 minutes before the departure of my flight, so I was not unduly concerned - if a little surprised - at the time she was taking to establish my *bona fides*.

This was the Commonwealth after all and my short Canadian visit had provided a civil, easygoing respite from the harshness of the United States. "There's something wrong here," the woman said. Before I could remonstrate she ordered me to step into a glass-enclosed sin-bin where "a supervisor" would submit my credentials to further examination. I would have said: "But what's the problem? I'm leaving your country, not entering it, and anyway, I'm British, dammit, and we allow you people to carry the picture of the Queen on your currency." Or words to that effect.

But then I realised my mistake. The woman was wearing a "US Immigration and Naturalization Service" badge on her white shirt. She was American! The Canadians had stooped to the indignity of allowing an outpost of the most loathsome species in US officialdom to be established on their own sacred soil. "Vive le Québec libre!" I muttered under my breath.

Americans have their own views as to which branch of the federal government is most deserving of contempt. Some say it is the FBI; others the CIA; others the income-tax collectors. But I, as a foreigner, have long viewed immigration officials with special distaste.

Years of ungracious encounters have taught me to view them as humourless robots programmed to judge you guilty until proven innocent, to convey a sense that it is a colossal privilege to be allowed into the country they patrol.

Anyway, there I was, waiting for a man with metallic forearms to complete his interrogation of a French-speaking Canadian who had a return ticket home but no visa. My plane was leaving in 10 minutes. The officer turned to me, hands on hips, and barked: "Sir, will you sit down?" I glanced at a row of plastic seats. "Look, I have a plane to catch..." "Sit down!" "I don't want to sit down!" "Look, if you don't sit down this minute I'm gonna call the RCMP!" Which meant the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I sat down, reflecting that the Canadians had retained some semblance of national pride after all and that, perhaps, this was not the time to be standing up for my rights. My plane was

leaving in five minutes. He beckoned me over, glanced at my visa and discovered there was nothing wrong with it. Reluctantly, he handed back my passport. I ran down an interminable corridor to my plane only to discover it had been delayed by half an hour.

Which was a relief but did nothing to deter me from building up a volcanic head of resentment as I stood at yet another immigration queue, in Miami airport, last weekend. Again I had a flight to make, a connection to Washington.

When my turn eventually came I slapped my passport down on the desk, opened a magazine and started reading it. These people crave respect. Well, they weren't going to get it from me. After a while I glanced up and noticed that the officer was shaking his head. "This is weird, really weird," she said. "What do you mean? This is a perfectly legitimate visa - stamped on my passport by your own government!" "This is weird, weird," she intoned. Then she pressed a button and a red light came on over her head.

A male robot from an adjoining booth stepped into the fray. "Look, buddy," he spat. "We can keep you here all night if you like." "Look, buddy," I spat back. "I pay your salary. I'm a non-voting American taxpayer and I've got a plane to catch."

He was enraged. He wanted to hit me. These people think they're gods. Well, as far as I'm concerned they're civil servants and all I want is civil service. I told him as much. He looked at my visa. "It's OK," he mumbled. "Let him through." I snatched my passport and stormed off with a "Jesus Christ!" He ran after me. This time I really thought he was going to hit me. I stared him down, turned and walked away, savouring my victory.

A petty victory, I reflected on the flight to Washington. I had been rude and I felt bad. If you're reading this, buddy, I'm sorry. You were only doing your job. It's not your fault if human kindness is not on the curriculum at the INS training course. But, as you Americans say, I was mad as hell and I just couldn't take it any more.

John Carlin

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12/11/95



Commonwealth summit: Nigeria and Britain in villains' roles, while red carpet awaits Mandela

## Auckland braced for anti-Major protests

STEVE CRAWSHAW  
Auckland

Things are so well organised here in the run-up to this week's Commonwealth conference that even the demonstrators have been holding rehearsals. In advance of expected clashes with police this week, a core group of protesters has been practising how to resist arrest.

Officially, everything is perfect. "The city of Auckland welcomes delegates to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting" say banners stretched across the streets.

The biennial Commonwealth conference (abbreviated to Chogm) begins officially on Friday and the authorities are determined to ensure everything goes smoothly.

This is the biggest international political conference New Zealand has held. Forty of the 52 Commonwealth leaders will be here. The Queen arrived last week and arrived in the city yesterday. John Major, Nelson Mandela and the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chrétien, will also have an official bilateral programme, as part of their stay.

For Mr Major, tomorrow's meeting with the host, Jim Bolger, will be less relaxed than it would normally be. Britain is the target of anger over its perceived softness on France regarding nuclear testing - a sensitive issue in the region.

A rally has been called for tomorrow under the rallying-cry "Major Outrage" in Queen Elizabeth Square. Demonstrations are likely to continue during the conference.

Inside the conference hall, Nigeria will be the main target because of the death sentence passed last week on the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, apparently on trumped-up charges. His son, also named Ken, arrived in

Auckland yesterday to publicise his father's case and press for sanctions. For the moment, the Nigerian military leader, General Sani Abacha, is still due to turn up in Auckland but Commonwealth officials suggest a late cancellation is on the cards.

If General Abacha comes, he will provide a lightning-rod for the entire conference. President Mandela, attending his first Commonwealth conference, is likely to be the hero of the hour. He is due to speak at the opening session and other countries may look to South Africa for moral leadership of the Commonwealth itself.

Although parts of the city will be closed off during the conference, many Aucklanders seem pleased, despite the inconveniences, that the summit is being held here. "It's nice that people are looking at us, from all over the world," one said.

But there are dissenting voices. The *New Zealand Herald* complained about the arrangements. "Commonwealth heads evidently cannot be safely conveyed a few blocks in normal traffic," it said. "Inner-city streets will be cleared, supposedly for security, but more than likely so that the guests may be driven in the grandeur they have come to expect. It may be the Chogm style. But it is not the New Zealand way."

After the plenary sessions, the leaders will head off for a "retreat" to hammer out the communiqué. Nigeria's abuses of human rights must be addressed. Sanctions seem unlikely, as the Commonwealth prefers persuasion to threats, but the course of action will be influenced by what Nigeria says in the next few days. The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Chief Emeke Anyaoku (himself a Nigerian) has made it clear he wishes the conference to send a tough message to Nigeria.



Air to the throne: Anti-royalist protester Sam Bracanov in Auckland spraying the car of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with air freshener, because he says they stink. Photograph: John Stillwell/AFP

## Dole campaign given a vital fillip

RUPERT CORNWELL  
Washington

Senator Bob Dole has strengthened his position against a possible challenge from retired general Colin Powell by winning the backing of Governor Stephen Merrill of New Hampshire, where the first primary of the 1996 election will be held in just over three months.

Governor Merrill's move, which he may announce today, is another sign that Gen Powell may find the Republican nomination next year is no pushover. Although the general is ahead of Mr Dole in the

polls in New Hampshire, aligned against him now is the state's young and highly popular Republican Governor, whose endorsement - and organisational clout - has been sought by every candidate.

Gen Powell is due to reveal in the next fortnight if he will run. No one knows which way he will jump but on one point there is universal agreement: for him to win the nomination, victory in New Hampshire is all but essential. "This is an effort by Dole to scare Powell out of the race," said one strategist. It would now be "very difficult for Gen Powell to put something to-

gether" in the state, said Vin Weber, a national chairman of the Dole campaign.

Mr Merrill's support for Mr Dole, who holds a commanding lead in the field of declared Republicans, will strengthen doubts about Gen Powell on the party's conservative wing. The Governor had seemed keen on him but this week criticised the liberal leanings of many Powell supporters: "I would have a lot more trouble supporting him than I originally thought."

The endorsement will be a much-needed fillip for Mr Dole's campaign, of late immobilised by the speculation

about a Powell candidacy and undermined by growing doubts about his age. Were he to win the White House, the senator would be 73 on taking office.

Meanwhile, elections were taking place in 15 states yesterday. The most closely watched were in Virginia, where Republicans were trying to win outright control of a Southern state's legislature for the first time since Reconstruction. Kentucky could also elect its first Republican governor in 30 years. Either outcome would confirm that the Republican tide so evident in 1994 has not yet run its course.

## Peking set to water down HK's Bill of Rights

STEPHEN VINES  
Hong Kong

China is proposing to reintroduce to Hong Kong some of the more draconian colonial laws which were abandoned after the introduction of a Bill of Rights in the colony four years ago. The move has united political opinion in the colony to an extent not seen since the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Yesterday the legal-affairs

sub-group of China's Preliminary Working Committee (PWC), the advisory body to the Chinese government on Hong Kong's change of sovereignty in 1997, concluded that it would stick by its controversial proposals to water down the Bill of Rights and bring back laws which limit civil rights.

The advisers originally proposed the changes to the laws last month, provoking an immediate outcry. Peking then took the un-

usual step of dispatching three legal experts to Hong Kong to explain the policy.

At one meeting the three harangued an audience of government advisers from district councils for two-and-a-half hours. No one in the audience was allowed to speak.

Sources say that the real reason for China's refusal to listen to the opposition is that the proposals from the PWC were endorsed by the "Hong Kong

Committee", a body whose existence is not publicly acknowledged, although it is headed by China's President Jiang Zemin and includes the Prime Minister, Li Peng, and Foreign Minister, Qian Qichen, as well as the two senior officials directly responsible for Hong Kong affairs. It is difficult to reverse decisions taken at this level. An attempt by Britain to discuss the matter last week in Peking was dismissed as "outside interference".

British officials believe that changes to the Bill of Rights would contravene the 1984 Sino-British agreement. Opposition to the proposals is mounting and is likely to be well aired next week, when Hong Kong's Legislative Council holds an emergency debate.

Under the proposals the Bill of Rights will lose its predominance over other legislation which is deemed to transgress its provisions. Old colonial laws will

be restored, such as those giving powers to censor television and banning groups from associating with overseas political organisations. It would bring back a law requiring groups of more than 30 to apply for permission before holding public gatherings.

Behind this is a real fear of losing control in the colony. "The leaders are really worried about people taking to the streets and things running amok," said a PWC member.

## IN BRIEF

## Walesa lags by 2 points

Warsaw — The ex-Communist leader Aleksander Kwasniewski was ahead of the incumbent, Lech Walesa, by 2 percentage points in Sunday's first round of presidential voting, according to official election results. Kwasniewski, the 41-year-old former Communist sports minister, received 35.11 per cent of the vote on Sunday. Mr Walesa, the 52-year-old former shipyard electrician, and Solidarity leader, won 33.11 per cent. AP

## Youths seek political asylum

Jakarta — Eight East-Timorese youths sought political asylum in the Dutch embassy in Jakarta yesterday, the second such group to seek refuge in a European mission in as many months, according to embassy officials. "They just ran through the gate," a spokesman said. "We could not stop them." Reuters

## Soldier kills 14 before committing suicide

Kigali — A Rwandan government soldier shot dead 14 people and wounded 19 before turning his gun on himself in south-western Rwanda. State radio said the soldier opened fire on a mob which was angry that he had stabbed to death a local resident in a bar-room argument. Reuters

## Assassination attempt suspect arrested

Harare — Zimbabwean police said yesterday they had arrested a second man in connection with an alleged assassination attempt on the exiled former Ethiopian dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam last weekend. A police spokesman said the man, an Ethiopian, was arrested on Saturday morning at a city flat. Reuters

## S Korea business chiefs face questioning

Seoul — South Korean state prosecutors have summoned for questioning the heads of the country's five top business conglomerates over ex-president Roh Tae-woo's slush funds, state radio said. The chiefs of Hyundai, Samsung, LG, Daewoo and Sunkyong have been ordered to appear today. Reuters

## Slavery, torture and rape rise in Sudan

New York — Slavery, abductions, torture and rape, mainly by government security forces, have increased in Sudan despite international protests, according to a UN report. Gaspar Biro, the UN special rapporteur for human rights for Sudan, said there had been an alarming increase in the number of reported cases of "slavery, servitude and forced labour". Reuters

## Britain awaits verdict on murder charge

Singapore — John Martin, also known as John Martin Scripps, a 35-year-old Briton on trial for the murder and dismemberment of a South African tourist, will hear the court's verdict on Friday. If convicted, he will become the first Westerner to be hanged for a non-drugs offence in Singapore, where the death penalty is mandatory for murder. Reuters

## Youths die in palace blaze

Antananarivo — Four Malagasy youths were killed trying to save antiquities from a blaze that gutted a royal palace in Madagascar. The palace, which once belonged to the last queen of the island, was destroyed in the fire on Monday. Reuters

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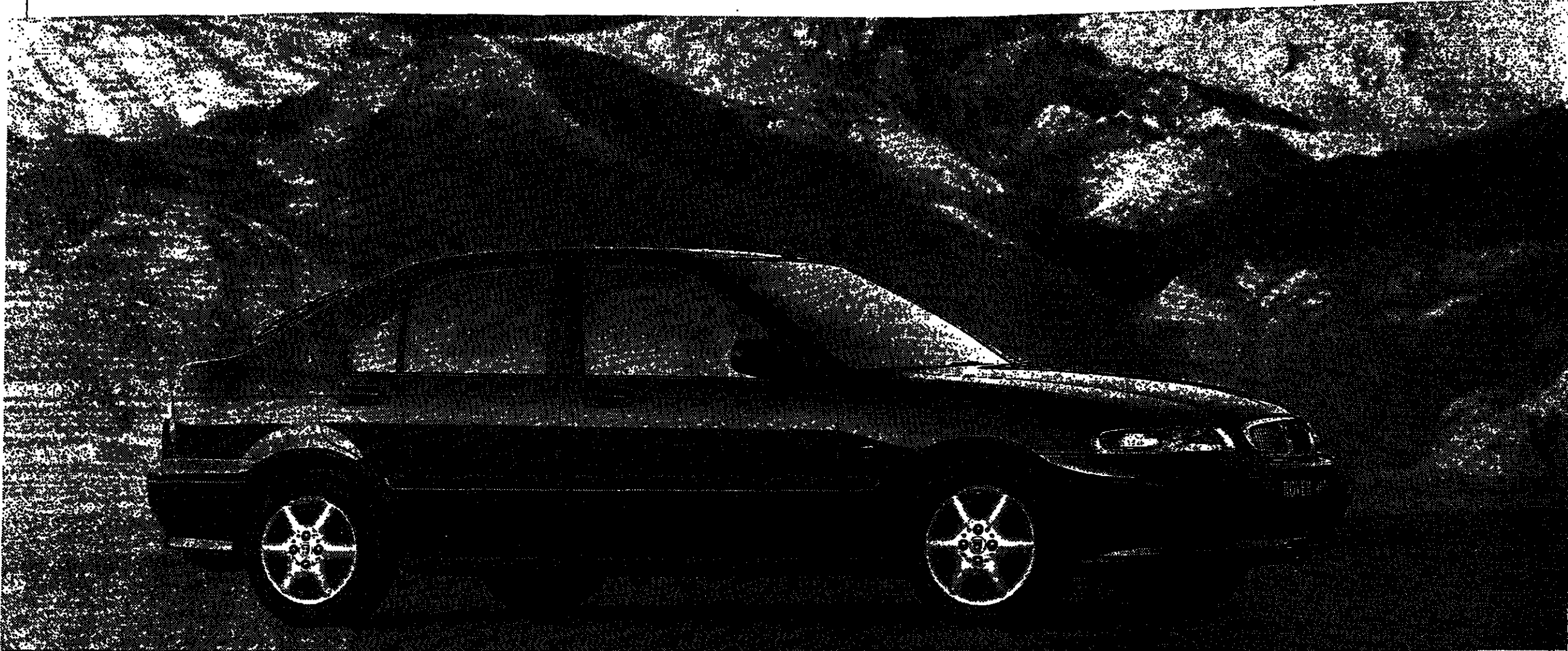
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Yesterday's Ordtech court case casts new light on how government operates as a law unto itself, writes Paul Valley

# Dark world of Britain's secret foreign policy

You could be forgiven for turning the page. So now the hitherto unimpeachable Douglas Hurd has been fingered in the latest round of the impenetrable and seemingly unending Arms-to-Iraq scandal. And we have a new bit-part player – Paul Greician, managing director of arms suppliers Ordtech, who managed to spy simultaneously for MI5, MI6 and Special Branch – to add to the dramatic personnel of this tortuous epic.

Yet what does it signify? Deceit and double-dealing is the stock-in-trade of the world of diplomacy and the other dark arts of foreign policy. Who cares, beyond the coterie of politicians involved and the obsessive little group of investigative journalists who pursue them?

But wait. There is more to all this than an accumulation of the kind of details we might normally find only in the middle pages of a John Le Carré novel. Yesterday's court case tells us something rather revealing about the way we have been governed for the past two decades.

It casts light on how Whitehall operates as a dark and secret place whose inhabitants know well how to hide the thimble when they need to. It shows how power corrupts by confusing the interests of the party in government with those of the nation itself. It shows how the Cold War undermined the primacy of truth and made it respectable to lie in government.

War between Iraq and Iran began in 1980 and continued until 1988. In its midst, in 1985, Parliament agreed to abide by a UN resolution which imposed an arms embargo on both sides. But on 21 December 1988, four months after the two nations agreed a cease-fire, the Government, at a meeting between the Defence Minister Lord Trefgarne, the Trade Minister Alan Clark, DTI and the Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave decided that the export guidelines could be relaxed. The decision may have been for sound strategic reasons and in the national interest. But they decided not to tell Parliament.

The wall had not yet fallen in Berlin. Western governments were still immersed in

a foreign policy culture in which the truth was not told. The Cold War ethos relegated truth in favour of strategic advantage. A culture of mendacity was created. Before long it went beyond its military purpose and spread insidiously through the whole system of government, encouraging everyone – as was all too clearly to emerge – to obscure the truth for their own reasons.

With the nod from the Government, British firms began supplying the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. The Sheffield firm Matrix Churchill shipped out parts for Saddam's intercontinental super-gun. The arms firm Astra through a subsidiary supplied the propellant for the gun. Ordnance Technologies Ltd (Ordtech)

It shows how the Cold War undermined the primacy of truth and made it respectable to lie in government

sold, via Jordan, shell fuses to the Iraqi dictator.

None of this might ever have been known had it not been for an independent investigation by HM Customs & Excise which, during the Gulf War, was alerted to earlier breaches of the embargo against the nation that was now the national enemy.

In February 1992, a case was brought at Reading Crown Court against four men working with Ordtech. The defendants claimed that the Government was aware that Jordan was being used as a conduit for exports to Iraq. They asked for government documents to be produced to prove their case. But "public interest immunity certificates" declaring that the material was too sensitive for the courtroom were signed by Kenneth Baker, then Home Secretary, and Peter Lilley, then Trade and Industry Secretary. Ordtech's managing director, Paul Greician, and three others were found guilty.

Ordtech's managing director, Paul Greician, and three others were found guilty.

Were the immunity certificates signed to protect the national interest? Or were they to protect Tory ministers from embarrassment? This is a key issue that Sir Richard Scott's report into the Arms-for-Iraq affair, which is due out soon, will certainly address.

That power corrupts is now a truism. But it does not just apply to the dictators of Africa. It applies to the elective dictatorship which has taken root in Britain since the war whereby governments exercise power largely unchecked by Parliament.

Four uninterrupted terms of Conservative government have made it easy for ministers to think of their own party interests as synonymous with the interests of the nation. Arrogance has crept in. They have begun to assume, not only that they cannot be wrong, but that the motives of those who criticise them are to be mistrusted. It was an attitude not restricted to those outside the party – even within those who raised questions were marked down as not "one of us".

The Ordtech Four were convicted in February 1992. But later that year, in November, a similar case against the Matrix Churchill businessmen collapsed when the judge objected to the use of the immunity device. The next day the Government set up the Scott inquiry into the affair. As it began on its mammoth task – which eventually involved seeing 200 witnesses in 430 hours of evidence supported by 200,000 pages of documents – Ordtech decided to appeal.

One of the most revealing moments in the Scott process was when the former Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe decided to launch a blistering attack on it, condemning the eminent judge at its head of being "detective, inquisitor, advocate and judge".

His attempt at a pre-emptive strike was only the first of an increasing number of attacks on judges by leading Tory politicians. The phenomenon prompted some quizzical comments yesterday by Lord Alexander, the former chairman of the Bar Council. He expressed concern at the recent attack on Lord Justice Taylor when he questioned the

## What they said ...

Geoffrey Howe, author of original guidelines announced to Parliament in 1985. They banned the supply to Iran and Iraq of arms and equipment that could lengthen the war. Restrictions relaxed after 1988 ceasefire, allowing exports which did not enhance offensive capability. Change kept secret to avoid outcry after gassing of Kurds by Iraq.

John Major. Said he knew nothing about operation of guidelines when Chief Secretary to the Treasury (1987-89), Foreign Secretary (1989-90), Chancellor (1989-90) or Prime Minister (1990-).

Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister until 1990. Told Scott inquiry she knew nothing about how guidelines operated. Only "the big things" came to her.

William Waldegrave, Foreign Office Minister 1988-90. Told Scott inquiry that guidelines were not changed.

Alan Clark, trade minister 1985-89 and defence minister 1989-92. Said guidelines were "so imprecise and so obviously drafted with the objective of flexibility, even elasticity, in mind as to make them fair game".

Douglas Hurd, Foreign Secretary 1989-95. Told Scott inquiry there was no evidence of ministers indulging "in some secret and wicked and wrong conspiracy". Disclaimed responsibility for actions of subordinates. "By definition, ministers are not going to reach down [for information] because they do not know what there is to reach for."

Source: Truth is a Difficult Concept, inside the Scott inquiry, by Richard Norton-Taylor.

efficacy of Michael Howard's Tory conference suggestion that parole be scrapped. Lord Alexander also questioned the attempts by government ministers "to ask the public, which has not heard the facts of a case, to write commenting on judicial decisions; to point out that a particular judge has had judgments reversed on appeal



before; to whisper, or more, against Nolan or Scott for carrying out their judicial inquiries...."

The tendency to perceive judges as not "one of us" has continued. That Tories – from Howe with Scott, to Major this week with Nolan – have turned negative on judges is also an increasing reflection of

the truth of Lord Acton's famous dictum about power. Such is the attitude of the powerful to those who try to exercise checks upon their authority.

The process continues. When the Ordtech case came to the Court of Appeal new immunity certificates were issued by the then Foreign

Secretary, Douglas Hurd, and the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. But the appeal court judges, led by Lord Justice Taylor, yesterday ruled that the documents concerned should have been made available to the defendants and overturned the original decision. The men's convictions were yesterday quashed.

It is not over yet. Sir Richard Scott is now writing and his report is expected to be published in the new year. The House of Commons has a select committee investigating allegations of arms to Iran. There is also a Customs & Excise inquiry into that matter.

Given the history of endemic secrecy that has surrounded government and the making of foreign policy throughout the Cold War, one has to ask the questions: why has it all come out? Why were the original prosecutions ever allowed? Why did not ministers lean on someone high up in HM Customs and tell them to drop their original investigations?

"I was never able to find out anything which gave even a hint of why that was not done," said someone close to the heart of government policy in this area yesterday.

Ironically, the answer may lie in the instincts of the administration which succeeded that of Mrs Thatcher to row back on some of the excesses of her regime. As Simon Jenkins has chronicled in impressive detail in his recent book, *Accountable To None*, the Thatcher years – contrary to all their rhetoric about getting power back to the people – saw a great increase in the process of government centralisation under the banner of centralising authority over spending. Its extent was dramatic – in local authorities, housing, schools and universities, the police and legal systems. The quango culture spawned.

It was John Major who – apparently sharing the view that Mrs Thatcher had become overmighty – appointed a minister for open government, established the Citizen's Charter and accelerated the demystification of the secret services in the post-Cold War era. As De Tocqueville pointed out, it is when the lid comes off that the explosions occur.

All round them the Tories now see that their system is falling apart. Time after time they make desperate attempts to grab and save a bit. "Where will it end? Where will it end?" asked Conservative backbenchers plaintively during this week's Nolan debate. Where indeed.

## Jerusalem Diary

TOM SAWICKI

We did not want the morning to come. Hundreds of thousands of us waited for hours for a chance to take one last look at the simple wooden casket wrapped in an Israeli flag which lay in state in Jerusalem on the plaza in front of the Knesset, Israel's parliament. We wished time would stop so we would not have to let go of Yitzhak Rabin and see him buried, and with him our hopes and dreams.

The sidewalks by the prime minister's official residence in central Jerusalem are covered with wax from thousands of memorial candles placed there by the Israelis holding personal vigils. Large pools of candle wax also covered the pavements along the route to Mount Herzl, Israel's national cemetery. At one spot a girl, aged no more than 10, collected pebbles to create her own memorial, the name Rabin spelt out with little stones.

Jerusalem does not let you forget that it is a city of strong, uncompromising and clashing emotions. At one spot on the main Jaffa Road, crowds placed still more candles. In the early morning of the day of the funeral, three young men suddenly appeared and kicked the candles aside before others standing nearby screamed and jumped at them. Luckily for the three, a police car screeched to a halt a moment later. The policemen, it transpired, had been following the youths after a complaint from someone who had seen them kicking candles elsewhere. The police took them away in the van, but not before the trio had dropped on the street a bunch of leaflets with biblical phrases praising those who kill the "enemies of Israel".

On the day of the funeral we go back to work. I pass hand-painted signs with Rabin's name and a sentence from the Kaddish, the memorial prayer, "He who makes peace in heaven", and yet more candles. Small groups of people gather around holding transistor radios which broadcast non-stop the events of the day. A religious man in black garb, standing on a corner, is holding up a small sign with the words: "I am ashamed." "Thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not kill," he repeats over and over again. "I am ashamed because a religious man killed Rabin," he explains when I question him. Then something out of the ordinary happens. A street sweeper, who has been working nearby, goes up to the man, grabs at his hand, and kisses it. The sweeper is an Arab and he says something in Arabic, which I do not understand. He switches to a broken Hebrew and explains: "We also believe that it is wrong to murder."

Shortly before 2pm, I go out into the street. We know that, at two exactly, a siren will sound to mark the



confused but before I can explain, the wail begins – a long, piercing sound that lasts for two minutes. The tourist looks around and I can see his jaw drop. Moments later he says he has never seen anything like this. Everything has stopped, no one moves, cars halt in the middle of the street, drivers get out and stand to attention.

That night we go up to Mount Herzl with flowers and candles. We tell ourselves that we are doing this for our children, to help them to mourn the loss. But to tell the truth, we are doing it for ourselves. Thousands of Israelis have the same idea. The grave is fast becoming a place of pilgrimage, almost impossible to get near.

The worst security and organisational nightmare on the day of the funeral was faced by Jerusalem's King David Hotel, the city's best, and the only place for visiting dignitaries. Luckily, most heads of state did not want to sleep overnight, but all needed a place to wash, eat and change, and the hotel coped masterfully. A list was drawn up to work out who would get the best rooms, with royalty at the top, followed by presidents in order of precedence according to the size of their rooms.

John Major caused the hotel's chefs a problem when it turned out that the list of his favourite foods they had been given was out of date, superseded by healthier fare. The contents of either pre- or post-diet list remain private – good, hearty, traditional

English foods" apparently, though the strictly kosher King David would certainly not have provided bacon and eggs had they been requested.

Many of the statesmen covered their heads at the graveside, and Israelis particularly appreciated those like Prince Charles who came equipped with their own skullcaps. Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was hatless, but quickly borrowed one from an official – which explains why he was sporting a blue baseball cap.

Jerusalem is a small town. Walk down any street and you'll run into someone you know. Many public figures walk around with little or no security – though this may now change. Everybody is on first-name terms with the mayor – it was Teddy (Kollek) for some 27 years and it's been Ehud (Olmert) for the past two years. But who would have his job? It is a tradition that the mayor is accessible to one and all – no one would hesitate to ring his house and speak to the mayor himself about any problem from rubbish collection to howling dogs. Call in the evening and you're pretty sure to get the mayor himself. If you have to leave a message he will ring you back promptly.

Jerusalem has known many upheavals – it has been conquered and reconquered at least 40 times in its 3,000-years-plus history. When it expanded past its ancient ramparts in the early 1900s it was lucky that the British were in charge. They declared that only the "Jerusalem stone", a local limestone, should be used to build in the city. The stone was used to build Herod's Jerusalem and the Jerusalem of the Muslims. But some architects are becoming rebellious. They have suggested a compromise – buildings that are half Jerusalem stone and half glass, for instance. But so far the city's naturally conservative residents are resisting. Many feel as I do – the unchanging stone reminds us that people only pass through here, but the city remains constant.

The author is a senior writer for Jerusalem Report.



After the shock: Rabin's grave is becoming a place of pilgrimage. Reuters

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## Publish quickly, Sir Richard

The heart of any government's credibility lies in its commitment to justice. Yet who, after yesterday's events, can still have faith in the honour of this administration? It is increasingly difficult to dispel the suspicion that ministers were prepared to go to any lengths, even perverting the legal system, to save their own skins.

In 1992 the Government allowed four businessmen to be convicted over arms sales to Iraq which had been approved by ministers. For three years, until yesterday, that miscarriage of justice was allowed to stand, though there was documentary evidence, to which the Government was privy, that ministers had condoned the sales.

These revelations are more serious even than those that led to the collapse of the Matrix Churchill trial in 1992. In that instance, the defendants were also tried over arms sales to Iraq. But at least that case did not result in convictions: a former minister, Alan Clark, played a key role in destroying the prosecution case when he revealed in court the extent of government knowledge about what had gone on. This time, ministers seem to have done their best to keep the truth hidden.

It becomes ever clearer that through the late Eighties Britain had a secret foreign policy to allow Saddam Hussein's regime to be supplied with weapons via Jordan. Parliament was not told. As far as MPs were aware, the 1984 guidelines still applied: that neither Iraq nor Iran should be supplied with lethal equipment. The public was not informed that the rules were slightly relaxed in 1988, and in any case were being widely flouted. And when the secret seemed likely to slip out during trials of the arms salesmen, documents demonstrating government duplicity were suppressed using public interest immunity certificates (PIICs).

It is not difficult to understand why officials and ministers would be keen to hush up this scandal. If the country involved had been different, governed by any old unipotent dictatorship, perhaps the public would not have cared so much about a breach of guidelines. Most people would have turned a blind eye to the cavalier way in which British foreign policy was formulated. But Iraq is different. In 1991 Britain went to war with Saddam Hussein. British servicemen risked their lives against an enemy who was believed to have chemical and biological weapons and was ready to use them. Selling arms to Baghdad was not only duplicitous. It was also a strategic blunder.

The last time the Foreign Office made a big mistake and Britain ended up at war was over the Falklands. On that occasion, heads rolled: Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, resigned. This time, those who allowed Saddam to arm himself hid behind PIICs and were prepared to let innocent men face conviction and personal ruin.

The authoritative account of how we were misled, and how errors and half-truths were covered up, has yet to be published. We still await the report of Sir Richard Scott, whose inquiry was set up three years ago. Only he can now clear up the atmosphere of deceit and subterfuge that has tarnished Britain's legal system and sullied the reputation of government. Every month that he delays his report does further damage. Publish quickly, Sir Richard.

## Who's afraid of Rodney?

You can't say we didn't tell you. Usually only a foolish person would confidently predict the result of a democratic election three years before it is held. Nevertheless, at the end of October 1992 this newspaper said that Rodney Bickerstaffe would become general secretary of Unison, the giant public-sector union, by 1996. And (as Harold Wilson used to say) so it proved. Yesterday it was announced that Mr Bickerstaffe had romped home, getting nearly half the votes in a four-horse race. Some 22 per cent of the union's membership had voted – not too bad by historic standards. So congratulations, Rodney.

But does it matter? It has, after all, become a conventional wisdom that unions ain't what they were. Neutered by Margaret Thatcher's legislation, rendered obsolete by the growing privatisation of the relationship between employer and employee and increasingly marginalised even within the Labour Party, the unions are (according to this view) a busted flush – a remnant of an earlier industrial age. So Mr B may cajole or threaten, but he is relatively harmless.

Conventional though this wisdom may be, much of it is sound. Unions, despite declarations about being part of the modern world, has steadfastly opposed each and every government change in the health service. It has frequently been obstructive when local authorities have tried to make their services more consumer-friendly. Within the Labour Party itself, history threatens to pass it by: the union opposed the dumping of Clause IV. In the election for the general secre-

taryship of this major union, the victor's opponents were two ultra-leftists and an anti-abortionist – testimony to the shallowness of the union's gene pool. Mr Bickerstaffe was, in truth, the best of a pretty poor bunch.

Despite his own doctory advocacy of the minimum wage – which may well bear fruit after the next election – Mr Bickerstaffe himself has said and done little to engage with the concerns of the consumers of the services his members provide. His attention is turned inward, to the demands of his activists over pay and jobs; not outward, to establishing a relationship with the voters. Unlike the TUC's general secretary, John Monks, Mr Bickerstaffe seems relatively unaffected by new thinking. He is a leader of the old school, a product of a declining culture.

This does not mean that he will gradually fade away, however. The next 18 months could well see the election of the first Labour government in 17 years. Such a government will face massive problems in delivering on its priorities while maintaining a staunch anti-inflationary stance. At the very least, it is likely to continue with many of the present government's policies – but if it is to succeed in its own terms, it will need to undertake further reform of the public services. Under these circumstances, a declaration of outright war by the public-sector unions on a government lacking experience and self-confidence could help to derail its programme and destroy its viability.

Unlike 1992, this is not a prediction, for Rodney has it at least partially within his power to stop it coming true.

ANOTHER VIEW David Jenkins

## Problems in need of faces

By training and by temperament I do not approve of organised expressions of outrage. But I have learnt that they are frequently inevitable, often necessary and sometimes powerfully effective. I started this learning when I joined the staff of the World Council of Churches just as the council was launching the Programme to Combat Racism. This brought me in touch with black people from various parts of the world who had stories to tell and cases to argue that clearly justified them in being angry.

A different encounter that has always remained disturbingly with me was during a meeting on liberation theology, with many Latin Americans present. Performing as the radical but reasonable theologian, I prefaced some remarks I was about to make by saying, "Of course Jesus Christ died for us all." There was an explosion in Spanish, which the interpreter rendered as: "Oh no, he did not die for the poor and the oppressed."

I hope this is not a full statement of the truth, but it reminded me sharply of Dean Inge's remark about the "comfortable shudder with which the average middle-class congregation accepts the burden of sin". Comfortable people can be reasonable and wait on negotiations. People with a deep awareness of current put-downs, frustrations and sufferings cannot be expected to be so reasonable. This lesson was reinforced for me by later meetings with redundant miners, hopeless young people and condescended-to

seekers of social security payments in the North-east.

Hence when Peter Tatchell at the small Glasgow conference on human sexuality referred to in yesterday's "Diary" gave us his account of the way the Church of England seemed not only to be ignoring them but also to be putting them and refusing to offer meetings for discussion, I saw things from his point of view. Naturally, it was different from that of a member of the House of Bishops, which had to negotiate tricky resolutions on sexual matters through General Synod. I believe we all needed reminding that we are dealing with hurt and angry people, not just with difficult problems about both the Bible and human sexuality. Problems, like statistics, need to be given faces.

The context of this Glasgow encounter was an attempt to engage both heterosexuals and homosexuals, both Christians and other concerned persons. In a deepening discussion about "rebalancing human sexuality". There is no hope of getting beyond either militant or defensive skirmishing about matters sexual until we escape being dominated by the general and trivialising obsession with sex in a purely genital and sensual sense. We need to reclaim human sexuality for trust, love, stability, sacrifice and support.

The writer was formerly Bishop of Durham.



"On the plus side, as I have no outside interests, I'm not worth mugging."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Falling foul of film processors and the police

From Mr Michael Taylor  
Sir: I agree with most of Claire Rayner's article (Another View, 6 November) about Julia Somerville's persecution, but I see little point in increasing Boots' profits on developing and printing by getting them to process more entirely innocent pictures of naked children. Especially as there would still be a risk of some over-zealous operative going to the police.

A few years ago the manager of our local Boots wanted to refuse to print a lovely, though scarcely erotic, let alone "pornographic", photograph of a beautiful woman. After getting the print I had asked for, I have never been near Boots for processing since.

I suggest a more effective form of protest would be for your readers to go somewhere else for their photographic work, first checking that there is no fundamentalist processor at work. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL TAYLOR  
Logiehead, Perthshire  
6 November

From Mr R. E. Toogood  
Sir: For many years I was employed as a medical photographer by a small group of hospitals, including a large psychiatric one. As some of the pictures I was required to pro-

duce bordered on the risqué or even pornographic, from the layman's point of view, and as I was using Kodachrome, in those days considered a purely amateur film, I contacted a friend at Kodak to inquire about handling procedures.

"What do you normally do if you see any funny stuff going through?" I asked.

"Well, we have checkers looking out for that sort of thing, and if they see anything doubtful they pull it out. Then we send a letter to the owner telling them that we cannot send these films through the post, as it is illegal; but if they'd like to call in to our office in Kingsway, London, they can pick the films up."

"And does anyone ever call?" I asked.

"No."  
Surely a reasonable and efficient way of dealing with the problem, without offending the innocent. Yours sincerely,  
R. E. TOOGOOD  
Canterbury,  
Kent  
6 November

From Mr George O'Neill  
Sir: With reference to Stephen King's letter (6 November), let me assure him that the unfortunate Julia Somerville and her partner certainly will be added to

the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) Paedophile Index. Of the dozens of families who have contacted me with regard to blunders by social workers and police "investigating" possible child abuse, not one has received a word or letter of apology, certainly from the police. The attitude of both services is: you pick up the pieces, we can do no wrong.

Being a father who has gone through this, believe me, Mr King's assumption is correct. Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE O'NEILL  
Richmond,  
Surrey  
6 November

From Mr Robin Ollington  
Sir: Apropos the reports linking Julia Somerville and child pornography ("ITN newsreader in photographs row back on air", 6 November) and Claire Rayner's sensitive thoughts on prurience (Another View, 6 November), one wonders how Boots would have reacted a century or so ago had it been asked to frame some of the canvases by Victorian painters depicting children, or indeed to process the plates

### Don't mix politics and asylum

From Dr G. W. Stadler  
Sir: You report ("Islamic exiles 'flocking to safe haven in London'", 4 November) that the governments of France and Algeria claim that Islamic extremists, who have obtained political asylum in Britain, are using London as a base for plotting the overthrow and assassination of their opponents abroad. They can do this because UK asylum law does not prohibit political activity, provided it does not break British law. I recall that Saudi Arabia has also claimed that Islamists living in Britain are undermining the Saudi state.

The actions of these Islamists are directed against relatively pro-Western governments, such as those of Algeria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and against relatively pro-Western politicians, intellectuals and journalists within these countries.

How can it be in Britain's longer-term interests to allow this situation to continue? Given the Government's readiness to amend the asylum laws, why does it not change the law to prohibit political activity on the part of political refugees, as other countries do?

It is unclear what the Government hopes to achieve by allowing the status quo to continue. If it does not change the asylum laws in this regard, it should state what its policy objectives are in keeping the law unchanged, and be prepared to justify these objectives publicly. Yours faithfully,  
G. W. STADLER  
Ponteland, Northumberland  
5 November

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

### After the death of Rabin

From Mr Lu'Ayy Minwer Al-Rimawi  
Sir: It is ironic that I, a Jordanian Arab who, like Yigal Amir, is also a law student, write to condemn strongly his assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. Instead of preparing to kill his own prime minister, the Israeli assassin should have been spending serious thought on how to build constructively upon a just and dignified framework.

The assassination has not only undermined the deep divisions engulfing the Middle East on the issue of peace. It has also highlighted the very considerable risks regional leaders have chosen to undertake. However, whether they like it or not, Israelis and Arabs are now united by a new mutual bond: the future of the region.

Yet Arabs and Israelis are also challenged by a mutual threat: religious extremism. Israelis and Arabs are surrounded by seas in which not only do hungry fish eat Jews, but myopic sharks devour liberal-minded Arabs and Jews. But if we as lay citizens cannot confront extremists' vile acts, we should at least distance ourselves from their actions, physically and intellectually.

The political vacuum Yitzhak Rabin has left may be difficult to fill, but it is incumbent on Israelis of all political and religious persuasions to carry the torch of peace that the extremist Israeli right is relentlessly trying to douse. On this sombre occasion I am very proud of my King's symbolic presence and his brave speech at Mr Rabin's funeral. May I echo King Hussein's words that the assassination of Mr Rabin should be an occasion for all those who belong to the camp of peace to come and speak of peace.

Yours sincerely,  
LU'AYY MINWER AL-RIMAWI  
London School of Economics  
London, WC2  
6 November

### Opposed to pot

From Mr George Foulkes, MP  
Sir: If the accuracy of your so-called survey of Labour MPs is to be assessed by your account of the views you attribute to me, it is wholly spurious ("Cannabis inquiry backed by 27 Labour MPs", 4 November). At no time have I supported the legalisation of cannabis, indeed I have publicly and strongly opposed it on a number of occasions.

I do not, of course, oppose a public debate on this issue; but my opposition and that of the Labour Party should be in no doubt. Yours etc,  
GEORGE FOULKES  
MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley (Lab)  
House of Commons  
London, SW1

### Heroin haul

From Mr Simon Reap  
Sir: I am shocked and dismayed that David Lister (Diary, 2 November) could dare to suggest Lonnie Donegan's "Rock Island Line" has hidden references to heroin.

The title alone shows that the song warns about the Eighties drug of choice, cocaine. Yours faithfully,  
SIMON REAP  
London, N11  
2 November

From Mrs Violet Holmes  
Sir: I, like most of the civilised world, was shocked at the death of Yitzhak Rabin. I turned off the television on hearing the news, and sat reviewing the senseless slaughter of a good man trying to bring peace with justice to his small part of the world.

Deborah Pritchett and Jonathan Regal (letter, 6 November) say: "When Jewish blood is shed, every Jew mourns." I, who am neither Jew nor Arab, but Christian, say: when any man dies, I mourn because we are all part of the human race. They should not be so particular in their grief. As King Hussein put it so eloquently in his moving homily: "We all worship the same God."

Yours sincerely,  
VIOLET HOLMES  
Maghull, Merseyside  
6 November

From Mr Nicolas Walter  
Sir: Shaikh Mohammed (Letters, 7 November) rightly calls for fair reporting of various forms of terrorism, whether by states or groups or individuals, but he wrongly calls for such reporting not to condemn any religion. Surely religious terrorism is as bad as any other, and indeed worse in that it invokes divine sanction for human violence, whether by or against the powers-that-be.

Justifications of, and precedents for, such terrorism appear in the scriptures and traditions of all the major religions (Jewish and Christian, Muslim and Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh), are invoked by the spokesmen of every variety of fanaticism and fundamentalism, and have always been one of the reasons for condemning all religion.

Yours faithfully,  
NICOLAS WALTER  
Rationalist Press Association  
London, N1  
7 November

### Why I want a gun

From Mr Ron Berry  
Sir: How can I protect myself against young vandals who have scragged my garden hedge, and who throw fireworks at my living-room windows?

I am 75 and struggling to walk on two sticks. My wife is recovering from major surgery. We have been burgled twice. My wife has lost all her long-cherished jewellery. We lost cash and rare, valuable property.

My car has been tumbled over, and last summer it took me a fortnight to catch a boy of eight. He stole four petrol caps off my car. How does one defend oneself? I do not want policemen coming to my house and offering apologies. This happens every time I write to the Chief Constable. I want advice on how to defend myself and stay within the law.

Were I half my age I would take the law into my own hands, as they say, simply by pursuing and threatening. Fear helps to civilise us all. Now I am tempted to buy a weapon – an airgun, for instance – because I am sick of being taunted and victimised by runaway young criminals.

How can my generation, people of the Twenties and Thirties, of loss and strife, how do we defend ourselves? Yours sincerely,  
RON BERRY  
Rhonda, Mid Glamorgan

0171 293 2056







noicing on the Canal, and he took the life to the full – too full, perhaps in later years, for he subjected himself to punishing international conference schedules. But he was usually able to negotiate with his family to get a precious hideaway in northern Italy during summers, and it was here that much of his extraordinarily varied writing was done. Rumour has it two new volumes were completed this summer.

He is survived by his wife, Susan, who shared the fieldwork in Morocco with him, and the two daughters and two sons.

**Chris Han**

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**Ernest Andre Gellner, anthropologist, historian, sociologist, philosopher; born Paris 9 Dec 1915; 1925; staff, London School of Economics 1949-8; Professor of Philosophy 1962-8; FBA 1974; William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology, Cambridge University 1984-9; Professorial Fellow, King's College, Cambridge 1984-92; Senior Lecturer, Cambridge 1992-9; permenary Fellow 1992-9; Resident Professor and Director, Centre for Study of Nationalism, Central European University, Prague 1993-95; married 1954 Susan Ryan (two sons, two daughters); died Prague November 1995.**

# Catherine Martineau

**William Mostyn-Owen**  
*Catherine Makepeace Thackeray* Ritchie: born London 3 March 1911; married 1936 John Martineau (died 1982; two sons, two daughters, and one son deceased); died Wulsham le Willows, Suffolk 22 October 1995.

It was common ground that even an unequivocal plea of guilty was not necessarily a bar to an appeal against conviction. Having considered all the unusual circumstances of the case - the material irregularity, the judge's ruling based on an unawareness by him and by prosecuting counsel of the undisclosed documents, and the pressures leading to the changes of plea, the convictions could not be regarded as safe and satisfactory. The appeals must be allowed.

**Ying Hui Tan, Barrister**

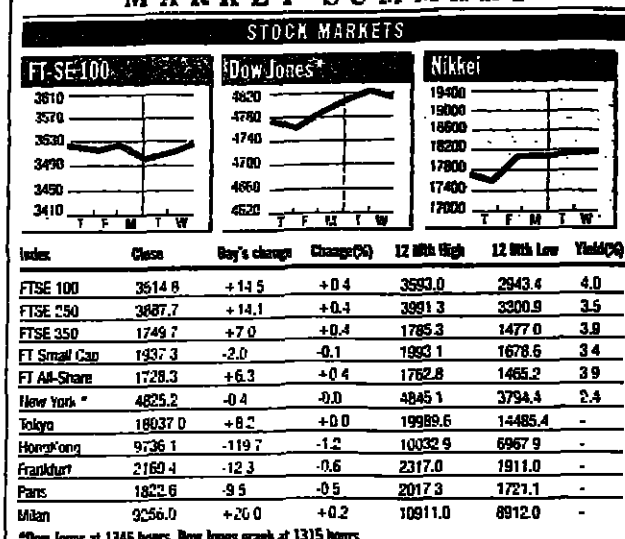
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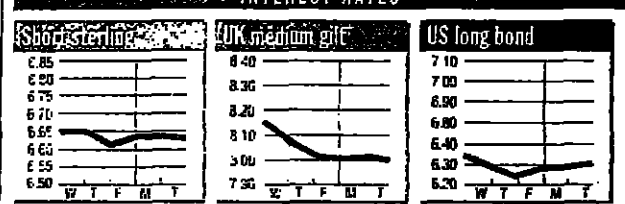
## MARKET SUMMARY



## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FTSE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts)							
Rises				Falls			
	Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change		Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change
Seaboard	678	92	18.3	Albert Heijn	47	2	4.1
Midland Motors	150	2.2	5.4	Harlow	109	4	3.5
Boys' Shop Int'l	143	7	5.1	Peak Air Devices	389	13	3.2
Northumbria	915	57	4.2	Amersham Int'l	950	28	3.0
South Wales	90	34	5.7	San Alliance	366	11	2.9

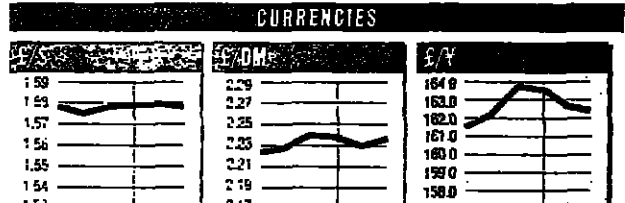
## INTEREST RATES



**Money Market Rates**

Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
UK	6.69	6.72	7.85	8.73
US	5.75	5.50	5.95	8.04
Japan	0.38	0.38	2.75	4.74
Germany	4.00	4.06	6.39	7.66

\*Bank of England's base rate



**Other Indicators**

Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
Oil Brent	15.80	+0.17	17.24	19.10
Gold S	382.00	+0.80	383.05	383.05
Gold E	242.04	-0.46	236.79	236.79

## IN BRIEF

### Lang promises consultation

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, yesterday promised to carry out consultation on proposals from a Commons Select Committee which said companies should pay for the circulation of resolutions put up by shareholders, provided they have sufficient backing. In a Commons reply he also confirmed the Government's commitment to legislation changes to implement proposals by the Greenbury Committee on disclosure of directors' earnings and pensions.

### Calor chief resigns

The chief executive of Calor Group, Britain's main bottled gas supplier, resigned yesterday as the company warned that the unusually warm weather was set to hit profits this year. Howard Robinson, who was appointed in January 1993, is thought to have lost out in board differences to John Harris, managing director of Calor's main liquid petroleum gas business, who will replace him at the head of the group. Analysts cut full-year net earnings forecasts from around £31m to around £27m.

### Taunton bid goes unconditional

The bid by drinks group Matthew Clark for cider maker Taunton went unconditional yesterday after being waved through by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. The DTI said it had decided not to refer the takeover to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The main offer remains open until further notice, with the partial cash alternative closing today.

### Nationwide looks at direct insurance

Nationwide Building Society is considering setting up a telephone-based direct insurance service offering home and contents cover to its 1 million mortgage holders. The society is also investigating other options, including a joint venture with a single insurance company, rather than the panel it uses at present.

### Top-level shake-up at SBC

Swiss Bank Corporation said the SBC Warburg chief executive, Marcel Ospel, will become chief executive of the parent bank next May. Johannes de Gier becomes SBC Warburg chairman immediately. In a top-level shake-up, SBC said its board chairman, Walter Frehner, will resign at the next AGM in May 1996, and the SBC chief executive, Georges Blum, will replace him. SBC said net profit in the nine months to September, including the first-time contribution from SG Warburg, was "clearly above" that posted a year earlier.

### MAM shares fall on half-year figures

Mercury Asset Management (MAM) shares fell 31p to 888p as the company announced half-year figures in line with forecasts but refused to react to market speculation about possible mergers or acquisitions. The market was also disappointed by the net business won - an increase of £800m.

### PIA to name names

The Personal Investment Authority, the main financial services watchdog, is set to publish the names of all insurance companies that refuse to join its independent ombudsman scheme. Although all members must belong to the scheme where investment products are concerned, they do not have to for health insurance and similar policies.

# Lang clears way for French bid

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

The Government opened the way for a surge of takeovers in the water industry by giving the long-awaited clearance for a bid for Northumbrian Water by Lyonnaise des Eaux of France. The required price cuts as a condition for any bid were attacked as "feeble" by the Labour Party and as "peanuts for customers" by Northumbrian.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, said that should Lyonnaise bid, price reductions of 15 per cent on water bills in the region would be phased in by 2001-2. He also said that the French group should list its entire UK water interests on the Stock Exchange by 2005. The announcement is expected to spark an early bid by Lyonnaise.

The price cuts, which were recommended by Ian Byatt, the water industry watchdog, were originally expected to be up to 20 per cent and to be implemented within four years.

Under the present scheme, the reduction in the first two years will be only 1 per cent - about 90p for the average

household in the area - rising to 2 per cent in year three and 10 per cent in year four. Mike Taylor, Northumbrian's finance director, said: "We are surprised at the leniency of the clearance conditions. As far as customers are concerned these cuts are an irrelevance in the first few years. Lyonnaise have certainly done a good job for

themselves but it is a very poor deal for customers."

A spokesman for Ofwat said: "In our view it is a realistic situation and we had to do what was achievable."

Mr Byatt also moved to stem any frenzy of bids in the sector by warning that the President of the Board of Trade has a duty

under the Water Industry Act to refer mergers between larger water companies to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. "In my view, the approval of this merger by the President of the Board of Trade does not mean that the way is clear for the spate of takeovers currently under way in the electricity industry to spread to wa-

ter. The Water Industry Act sets a framework within which inquiries into certain mergers within the industry must be conducted," he said. Lyonnaise des Eaux already owns North East Water, the water-only company neighbouring Northumbrian, and would merge the two. The company said that the

pricing conditions... will have significant implications for the value of Northumbrian to Lyonnaise. But it added: "Notwithstanding the severity of the conditions imposed, Lyonnaise recognises that this is the only basis on which it will be able to proceed and proposes to enter into discussions with the board of Northumbrian to establish whether there is a basis on which both parties can agree terms for an offer."

City analysts believe the French group would have to bid between £11.50 and £12 per share for Northumbrian. The company's shares jumped by 60p to close at £10.74 last night.

It also emerged yesterday that North West Water has won 76 per cent of the regional electricity firm, following last week's clearance of the takeover. Ken Harvey, North West's chairman and chief executive, and Brian Wilson, finance director, will leave next week to pursue other interests and opportunities. It is thought Mr Harvey will gain £2m from ending his contract and his share options. Mr Wilson is expected to gain about £450,000.

## Anglian backs consumer power

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

Anglian Water yesterday proposed giving consumers a more direct role in setting water prices, by establishing what it called customer forums. Reporting profits last year 43 per cent higher at £125.8m, Robin Gourlay, chairman, suggested it was time for the regulatory regime governing water companies to broaden the role given to consumers.

At present, Ian Byatt, the water regulator, appoints customer committees for each water company to help him in his deliberations. But Mr Gourlay believes it would be better to have water consumer bodies with a degree of independence similar to that given to organisations such as the National Consumer Council.

Mr Gourlay admitted that one of the reasons for opening up the regulatory process to consumers was that Anglian

believed its customers were willing to back a higher level of capital investment even at the expense of an increase in prices. When the company asked Mr Byatt to approve an extra £250m of investment as part of the last price review in the water industry, he disallowed all but £50m. Only the cost of approved investment can be reflected in water prices.

Anglian also rejected Mr Byatt's call last week for the water companies to share more of

their profits with customers, in a clear indication that he would prefer lower dividends and more price reductions. It raised the interim dividend 11.25 per cent, nearly twice the increase in earnings per share of 6.5 per cent.

Alan Smith, managing director, said: "We don't agree with that." Anglian's customers had indicated in a survey that polled 3,000 people that they preferred investments and improvements to price cuts.

## Goldcrest fugitive surrenders

DAVID HELLIER

Donald Anderson, the former finance director of Goldcrest, a subsidiary of the Brent Walker Group, has given himself up to the police after almost three years as a fugitive. He appeared yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London.

Mr Anderson, a New Zealand citizen and said to have been a loyal colleague of George Walker, the company's founder, fled the country in July 1992 during the course of interviews with the Serious Fraud Office. At one point the SFO believed Mr Anderson might have been dead.

A warrant for Mr Anderson's arrest has been outstanding since January 1993 when Mr Walker, former chairman and chief executive of the Brent Walker Group, and Wilfred Aquilina, the former finance director, were first arrested.

Further warrants were obtained in March 1993 when John Quesada, former managing director of Goldcrest, was arrested, and again in December 1994 following the conviction and sentencing of Aquilina.

Mr Anderson is charged with two counts of theft, one charge of conspiracy to falsify accounting documents, one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice and four charges of false accounting, involving in total £31.8m.

Mr Anderson has been granted bail. However the SFO is contesting this today, fearing that he may abscond again. Mr Anderson is represented by Michael Coleman of Harbavys, who acted for Mr Walker during the Brent Walker trial.

Mr Coleman said yesterday that his client had come back to face charges, having come to the conclusion that they "were not going to go away". There had

been no pre-conditions or deals with the SFO beforehand.

He said that Mr Anderson was charged with conspiracy to falsify accounting documents, the charge on which Mr Walker and Aquilina were acquitted. Aquilina was convicted on one count of false accounting in relation to a false document to Touche Ross in 1991.

Mr Coleman said he had volunteered several conditions for his client's bail, including a surety of £150,000, the surrender of his client's passport and an offer to report to the police twice a day. There was no reason to fear that his client would abscond because if that was in his mind he would not have come back.

Mr Walker is in the throes of trying to win back money he claims is owed to him by Brent Walker. Some banks have warned that they will put the company into receivership if he looks likely to win his case.

Mr Walker, who built the Brent Walker Group into a company that by 1990 had an annual turnover of more than £1.5bn, was acquitted on all charges on 24 October last year. In his defence it was suggested that two film division directors, John Quesada and Mr Anderson, were chiefly responsible for any wrongdoing.

Allegations about the accounting policy within Brent Walker's film division first surfaced in the *Independent* in August 1988. Brent Walker had hoped that success in the film division would provide the springboard for the company's launch into the big time but worries about the division's accounts prevented the group from being able to raise money through a rights issue. It had to rely on heavy borrowings, a strategy that has left the group close to bankruptcy.

## Results slide 21% as profits collapse at Carlsberg Tetley and Domecq



Drowning sorrows: Allied Domecq's chief executive Tony Hales (left) and Tony Trigg, finance director. Photograph: Jane Baker

## Restructuring hits Allied for six

TOM STEVENSON  
Deputy City Editor

A £90m restructuring charge and £51m of other exceptional charges, generating a loss of £40m, led to a 21 per cent fall in profits from £628m to £494m.

Excluding the exceptional restructuring charges, earnings per share slipped from 38.2p to 37.7p and a final dividend of 11.8p was paid which, added to last May's 15.8p payout, gave a full-year total of 23.6p, up 6 per cent. Allied's shares, which have underperformed the rest of the market by 40 per cent over the past four years, closed unchanged at 493p.

ing, declining profits from the old Lyons food business, which is being disposed of, and the write-offs contributed to a 21 per cent fall in profits from £628m to £494m.

Excluding the exceptional restructuring charges, earnings per share slipped from 38.2p to 37.7p and a final dividend of 11.8p was paid which, added to last May's 15.8p payout, gave a full-year total of 23.6p, up 6 per cent. Allied's shares, which have underperformed the rest of the market by 40 per cent over the past four years, closed unchanged at 493p.

Tony Hales, chief executive, admitted the Carlsberg Tetley joint venture had had a difficult start, but said he believed the corner had been turned. He refused to comment on rumours that Allied was looking to pull out of the brewing tie-up completely and had appointed Goldman Sachs to seek a buyer for its stake.

Last year's acquisition, Domecq, also struggled during the period to cope with a slump in demand in Mexico, one of its big markets, and the collapse in the value of the peso which led to a reduction in profits from

that country from £60m to £48m. Had the current exchange rate been used throughout the period, those profits would have slumped even further to £23m.

Mr Hales painted a gloomy picture of prospects for the dominant spirits business where the large markets of Europe and North America are experiencing slow volume growth and little or no price improvement.

Growth in the retail segment was stronger with revenue from food sales in the managed pub estate up 12 per cent and drink sales 5 per cent higher.

Investment Column, page 23

## A new Lloyd Webber opening

The composer's newspaper ambitions are serious, writes Mathew Horsman

If the composer Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber really does end up owning part of a national newspaper, it will have been a deal launched over a capital lunch.

The prolific Sir Andrew met the bean king, Dr Tony O'Reilly, for a two-hour meal recently, during which the two discussed the financial prospects of what is left of Fleet Street. Sir Andrew, it transpired, would quite like to own the *Express*, and wondered whether Dr O'Reilly, whose Heinz group is best known for its baked beans, would like to help him win it.

It appears that Dr O'Reilly, who already owns the *Irish Independent* and other Irish titles, as well as 43 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, publishers of the *Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, listened more than he talked.

It would not be completely beyond the realm of possibility for Sir Andrew's Really Useful Group to stump up some cash for a national newspaper - so go from *Starlight Express* to the *Daily Express*. The privately held group, in

which the entertainment giant PolyGram has a 30 per cent interest, has set itself the task of becoming a "broadly based entertainment company," investing the fruits of Sir Andrew's uncanny commercial acumen into new businesses.

It is already highly profitable.



Idea man: Andrew Lloyd Webber wants to branch out

The company has low costs and generates most of its revenues through the exploitation of copyrights to many of Sir Andrew's big-selling musicals - *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and the like. In 1994, for example, it had operating profits of £46.2m on turnover of £110m, 83 per cent of it earned overseas.

Sir Andrew himself was paid a whopping £19m for his services as "composer", while another £36m went to other creative talent. This, clearly, is a people business.

That is one reason Sir Andrew decided to take the group private in 1990, following a mere four years as a publicly quoted company. He was tired of having to write hit musicals merely to keep the share price up - into films, television, games and now newspapers. In the past five years, profits have risen 400 per cent as the

## IoD survey reflects gloom on economy

DIANE COYLE  
Economics Correspondent

The Institute of Directors yesterday became the second business organisation to warn that confidence has dropped to its lowest level since Britain was ejected from the European exchange rate mechanism.

The IoD's latest survey of members found that for the first time since October 1992, the number who were less optimistic outweighed those who were more optimistic about prospects for the economy. It follows a similar finding in the Confederation of British Industry's fall in optimism, which reported a month in a row, also to the lowest level for three years.

Both surveys were carried out before the shock fall in manufacturing output in September. Ruth Lea, head of the IoD policy unit, said these figures and the survey result would make uneasy reading for the Chancellor. "The Chancellor should

make bold spending cuts to finance the tax cuts business needs, and if there are further signs of weakening in the economy he should not hesitate to cut interest rates."

Today's Bank of England Inflation Report will reveal whether the Bank has changed its view that there is no scope for a reduction in interest rates yet. Analysts expect the report to be especially cautious as the Bank's view will depend on the Budget contents. Since a speech by Eddie George, the governor, in late September - when he said the chances were still that base rates would need to rise - the evidence has pointed to weaker activity but worse inflation than earlier in the year.

The IoD survey revealed that 30 per cent of directors have become less optimistic about the economy, compared with 28 per cent who were more optimistic. The main worry cited by the pessimists was political uncertainty, followed by the economy's slower rate of growth.





The country might as well be serious about City regulation by going the whole hog and engaging in root-and-branch reform

## Bank escapes unscathed as political will fails

Few could disagree with any of the central findings of the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee on City regulation. Present arrangements are plainly deficient in many respects: most of the committee's recommendations represent an advance of some kind while remaining sufficiently uncontroversial to command widespread political support. Such is the drawback (or advantage if you believe in the consensus approach) of attempting to produce a cross-party report on these matters.

The most contentious issue - whether the Bank of England after the BCCI and Barings debacles should be stripped of its supervisory functions - is deliberately fudged. Instead, using that time-honoured Whitehall technique for playing difficult issues off into the long grass, the Treasury is invited to review the matter. The idea of a free-standing prudential supervisor of banks and building societies is described cutely as "a not inconceivable development". The unspoken view, however, is clearly that conception is some distance off. The Treasury, these days, is no loyal friend of the Bank of England. Both at official and to some extent ministerial level, there is a desire to carve out for the department a new role in banking supervision and City regulation. The fact of this happening before the next election is virtually nil. Setting up a free-standing banking supervisor responsible directly to the Treasury would require a new

Banking Act. Some of the committee's other suggestions would also require legislative reform. If parliamentary time is to be found for tackling City regulation at all, the country might as well be serious about it by going the whole hog and engaging in root-and-branch reform. This Government is certainly not going to do that. And the next, assuming it is Labour, will have rather bigger fish to fry in its early years.

So for the time being the Bank and other City regulators escape largely unscathed, despite concern about the fitness of the Bank of England in particular to meet the exacting task of supervision in today's rapidly evolving and sophisticated global financial markets. One view, reflected among a minority of committee members, is that the Bank of England's supervisory failings should be dealt with not by dismantling the present framework but by reinforcing it - by giving the Bank bigger resources and enhanced powers. It seems unlikely the Treasury will go for that one, however.

With no prospect of radical reform this side of the parliamentary election, what can it go for? To keep pace with the trend towards large, integrated financial conglomerates, providing a whole range of products across global markets, a more radical approach than that suggested by the select committee is required. It makes little sense to match integration and globalisation of practitioners with fragmentation of supervision, split along industry lines. Far

better to pool the resources and expertise in one powerful supervisory organisation. The long-term implications, both for the Bank of England and the other regulators, are clear. It is finding a government with the time and the political will to do it that is the problem. It will require a scandal or two more yet before the Government is finally shaken into action.

### No open season in the water industry

Publicly, Lyonnaise des Eaux yesterday described the price cuts required as a condition of its takeover of Northumbrian as severe. Privately, the French must have found it hard to hide their delight, since the cuts are at the lower end of the 15 to 20 per cent range and back-ended, with little penalty for a new owner in the first couple of years.

Indeed, the full 15 per cent saving for consumers does not have to be put through until after the next industry-wide price review at the end of the decade, when the whole pricing regime will have been argued through again. The insistence that Lyonnaise secure a stock market quotation for its UK water business, designed to guarantee that the accounts remain transparent, is even less meaningful, since the company has 10 years to achieve the objective.

Sensing rightly that the City would read this as signalling open season for the water

companies in the stock market, Ian Byatt, the water regulator, inserted what might be called the Professor Stephen Littlechild memorial clause into his announcement.

Professor Littlechild has gone down in City lore, rightly or wrongly, as the man who sparked the electricity takeover frenzy with an unduly lenient price review. Mr Byatt is determined not to be remembered that way. "The approval by the President of the Board of Trade does not mean that the way is clear for the spate of takeovers currently under way in the electricity industry to spread to the water industry," he said.

As it happens, Mr Byatt has more firepower in his armoury than Professor Littlechild, whose advice that most of the electricity bids should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has been studiously ignored by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade. In the water industry, merger references are mandatory, so bids cannot be nodded through by government, as Mr Lang has done with electricity. That gives Mr Byatt an immediate lever, since he has a big input into a monopolies inquiry and into subsequent negotiations over conditions.

There are other differences, too. The water companies' big investment programmes leave them with only a modest cash flow, unlike the juicy amounts the RSC produce. Nor are there the same commercial pressures to restructure that exist in the electricity industry or the rush of interest from

US utilities. In the water industry, there is unlikely to be an open season - just a few potshots at stray birds.

### A shared vision of the future

The "collegiate" approach to containing costs in the newspaper industry - the idea that several titles might share back-office and production facilities - has taken on a new lease of life in these days of rising newsprint costs and intense competition for readers. But the idea is an attractive one for other industries, too. The independent television sector has been doing a version of it for years, through shared sales houses. More recently, several ITV companies got together to handle their overseas sales efforts jointly too.

The idea is beginning to catch on among retailers: witness the appearance of fast-food outlets in food malls or the sharing of retail space by branded retailers on the shop floor of big department stores. More recently still, the utilities have seen how savings can be achieved by combining billing and some after-sales services. It doesn't take a takeover to make the "collegiate" approach work. Thames Water and London Electricity see no reason why they should merge to make it work. Cut the basic costs by pooling them with competitors, and compete on the factors that really differentiate products. Could this be the future across a wide range of industries?

## Davis leads bid for Reed's regionals

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

Peter Davis, the former chairman of Reed Elsevier, is leading a bid to buy the Anglo-Dutch giant's UK regional newspapers. Prudential, the insurance group now headed by Mr Davis, is among the front-runners for Reed Regional, the £220m newspaper group put up for sale earlier this year.

A further nine bidders have made formal approaches, of which four are likely to be rejected immediately. That leaves six serious applicants, of which at least two are believed to be newspaper groups. The rest are institutional investors, according to informed sources.

A victory for the Pru would mark sweet revenge for Mr Davis, who left Reed Elsevier last year after a bitter disagreement over strategy and management structure. Analysts last night speculated that the insurance giant might seek to break up the newspaper group and sell titles on to other buyers.

Of the remaining bidders, Midland Newspapers is believed to have made a formal offer. The company, which publishes the *Birmingham Post*, confirmed earlier this year that it was interested in ac-

quiring Reed Regional, the country's largest publisher of free newspapers, with a combined weekly circulation of 4 million.

Unexpectedly, a management buy-out is not among the finalists, although key managers are thought to have aligned themselves with institutional bidders.

The sale might raise as much as £220m, according to informed sources, although estimates range as low as £150m. Last year, Reed Regional had sales of £131m. Analysts said the likelihood of further newsprint increases, coupled with declining circulation suffered by many regional newspaper titles, would depress the price to below the usual two times revenues used to value publishing assets.

Despite the market conditions, the free newspaper market has weathered the generally difficult climate for print media by concentrating on cutting costs and closing unprofitable titles. Moreover, there has been consolidation in the marketplace, most recently through the £327.5m sale of Thomson Regional Newspapers to Trinity. Regional newspaper owners believe further deals are likely, and that should improve prospects for the remaining groups.

Altogether, more than 60

groups received Reed's sales memorandum, including News International, the publishing group controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News International, and the Express Group, the latter itself the subject of speculation that it is prepared to sell off its regional newspaper holdings.

A spokesman for the group continued to stress yesterday that no decision had been taken over the fate of the *Daily Express*, the *Sunday Express*, the *Daily Star* and the company's regional titles.

Both News International, publisher of five national titles including the *Times* and the *Sun*, and the Express, owned by United News and Media, would probably have faced insurmountable obstacles from Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Analysts pointed out that companies often express formal interest in auctions in order to review confidential material. It is believed that very few of the 60 applicants seriously intended to bid.

The sale is a stage in the disposal of Reed's consumer operations, which include its book publishing and Dutch newspaper businesses. All told, the company hopes to raise between £700m to £1bn from its disposals.

Former BA chief executive parachutes into soft landing four days after stepping down



Sitting pretty: Sir Colin Marshall will be paid £200,000 for at most a two-day week as Inchcape's new chairman. Photograph: PA

## Marshall moves into the chair at Inchcape

NIGEL COPE

Just four days after he stepped down as chief executive of British Airways, Sir Colin Marshall has already landed on a new corporate runway. He was yesterday named as the new chairman of Inchcape, the struggling motor distributor and marketing group. He joins the board with immediate effect and will replace Sir David Platts as non-executive chairman on 1 January.

He will be paid £200,000 a year for a 1.5 to two-day week. He will continue to spend two days a week at BA as chairman, although his modified BA salary has not yet been decided. Inchcape says it will share Sir Colin's car and chauffeur expenses with BA. He will receive no bonuses or share options.

Sir Colin, 61, will also take up the presidency of the Confederation of British Industry next May and there was immediate criticism that he is taking on too much. He accepted as much yesterday and said that although he intends to keep his non-executive directorship of BT and the banking group HSBC, he may relinquish some of his other committee positions.

Commenting on his swift acceptance of another chairmanship, Sir Colin said: "You have to seize these opportunities when they come in life."

Inchcape said they were delighted to recruit Sir Colin, whom they have been courting for three months. Charles Mackay, the chief executive, said: "He has pre-eminent qualities for the job. He is very much a marketing man and we are a marketing company. He also has strong background in customer service and has the confidence of the City."

Sir Colin's appointment renews several long-standing acquaintances. Charles Mackay has sat on the same board as Sir Colin at both HSBC and BA. At Inchcape Sir Colin will sit at the same board table as Liam Strong, who is a non-executive director and was formerly marketing director of BA.

Although Inchcape shares closed 7p lower at 295p, the appointment was greeted positively in the City. Inchcape's shares have underperformed the FT-SE all-share index by 36 per cent over the last three years. It has shocked the market with a series of profit warnings hit by the high yen.

## Kevin: 'I was bloody arrogant'

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell said yesterday he had been "bloody arrogant" and for that reason had never imagined or considered the possibility of business failure. Because of that, he told an Old Bailey jury, he never believed pensioners' interests were being put at risk by transferring shares owned by BIM - Bishopsgate Investment Management, which administered the pension fund - to the Robert Maxwell Group.

Kevin said, in what turned out to be his last meeting with his father, that Robert Maxwell told him he had transferred the beneficial ownership of some £40m worth of shares in the Israeli group, Teva, to RMG. They were to be paid for in the usual way through movements on the inter-company account.

In his fourth week of giving evidence, Kevin was pressed by Alan Suckling QC, prosecuting, about whether this was in the interests of the pensioners.

Kevin said it was easy to say that now, with the benefit of hindsight and knowing what had happened in the following days with his father's death and the company's collapse. He accepted, looking back, that "it beggars belief" but that was not what he was thinking at the time. "I didn't, for a minute, think or consider the possibility of my father's death and the impact that would have."

With the subsequent knowledge that the group was going to crash, he now accepted the share transfer had not been in the pensioners' interests, but at the time "there was no conception that they were not going to get their money back". He added: "It didn't occur to me. I didn't feel sufficiently threatened commercially to panic... if I had panicked perhaps I wouldn't be here."

### The Maxwell Trial



Day 98

Kevin said it was easy to say that now, with the benefit of hindsight and knowing what had happened in the following days with his father's death and the company's collapse. He accepted, looking back, that "it beggars belief" but that was not what he was thinking at the time. "I didn't, for a minute, think or consider the possibility of my father's death and the impact that would have."

When Mr Suckling suggested he had invented what had happened at the meeting with his father, he replied: "I am not inventing what my father said, I am reporting what he said. I was there, you were not."

When Mr Suckling asked: "Isn't this humbug?", Kevin told him: "Every time you get an answer you don't like, you use words like humbug."

Kevin, his brother, Ian, and Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell financial adviser, deny a conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing shares. As a result of the crash there was not a pensioner today who was not interested in details of their pension. Kevin told the court. He said that neither the Maxwell directors nor the banks knew of the liability to the pension funds - but that neither had asked for the information. "There was no attempt to hide," he reiterated his earlier evidence that "if you don't ask, you don't get."

## Barings collapse: concern grows over banking sector supervision

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
and NIGEL COPE

A full-scale parliamentary debate into the collapse of Barings has been requested from both sides of the House of Commons amidst concern among MPs over the Bank of England's supervisory competence.

Sir Thomas Arnold, the Conservative chairman of the influential Treasury and Civil Service Committee, said yesterday he had written to Tony Newton, leader of the House, asking for a debate which would thoroughly examine the Bank of England's role. A similar request has been made by Alastair Darling, Labour's City spokesman.

Sir Thomas said there was "considerable concern" inside the Treasury Committee over the Bank's role as lead supervisor for the banking sector. In its report on financial services regulation in Britain, published yesterday, the committee recommended that the Treasury "should now review the role of the Bank of England as prudential supervisor of the banking institutions."

The committee also criticised financial watchdogs for their failure to prevent the pensions mis-selling scandal and their inability to ensure speedy redress for victims of bad advice. The report described as "unacceptable" the lengthy delays in investigating unprofessional conduct by insurance companies and financial advisers.

The fact that the task of identifying those individuals who received poor advice and calculating the level of compensation is difficult and onerous does not absolve the regulators, and ultimately the firms, from providing swift and full recompense for their actions," the committee said yesterday.

The report officially raised for the first time the prospect of the Bank of England being stripped of a role it has fought vigorously in recent years to defend. "A free-standing prudential supervisor of banks and building societies - answerable to and appointed by the Treasury - is not an inconceivable development, which has been given greater credibility by the events of the last few years," the report said.

The Bank responded yesterday by saying the committee had not conducted a serious investigation into banking supervision. "We do not recognise the picture the committee painted of the Bank being behind the game or out of touch with the international supervisory community. We have every idea of how to deal with the securities and derivatives markets and are continuing to improve our knowledge," the Bank said.

The Treasury committee also said it hoped to hold detailed hearings into the Barings collapse in the new year and would call former Barings executives as witnesses.

The MPs also warned front-line regulators such as the Securities and Futures Authority and the Personal Investment Authority that unless they encoded "in-fighting and jostling for position" the law might have to be changed to abolish them and replace them with a single regulator based around the Securities and Investments Board.

The report called for a reform of the Financial Services Act to allow lending to be regulated by

financial watchdogs. The committee said the complexity of many products, such as home income plans sold to thousands of elderly investors, made it impossible to separate lending from investment. The committee also proposed that professional bodies such as the Law Society should give up their right to regulate members' financial activities and existing watchdogs should take over.

Despite the relatively restrained wording of the report, reflecting the need for compromise, a majority of the 11-strong committee expressed grave misgivings about the Bank of England's future as banking supervisor. "In the course of the parliamentary debate, I would not be happy if the Chancellor merely repeated the view that setting up a separate banking supervisor would just be changing the brass name-plate. He will have to argue his case more fully than that," Sir Thomas said.

The Treasury, which has been asked to carry out the review of the Bank, is known to be sceptical about the effectiveness of the present arrangements.

## Warm fronts put dampener on M&S profits

NIGEL COPE

The gloom on the high street was compounded yesterday when Marks & Spencer, the country's leading retailer, reported a downbeat set of profit figures and called for measures to boost consumer spending in the Budget.

Marks & Spencer's pre-tax profits increased by just 9 per cent to £385m in the six months to September, lower than some analysts had expected. Keith Oates, the deputy chairman, blamed the warm summer weather followed by another

mild autumn for poorer-than-expected clothing sales. The performance in the food halls and in home furnishings was stronger but not enough to beat City forecasts.

Mr Oates said: "One would have liked to have done better but we are pleased given the circumstances. We are hoping for some sort of stimulus in the Budget. Lower interest rates would be nice or some sort of relaxation in taxes." He added that he was confident the group would enjoy a good Christmas and was stocking more hampers and gift ranges.

John Richards, stores analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "It is a disappointing performance. M&S is supposed to be able to buck these trends and it hasn't."

But Tony Shire of BZW was more impressed. "It's a pretty commendable result. Marks & Spencer is still a strong brand that can be successfully applied to other areas such as financial services and home shopping."

Group sales increased by 5.7 per cent to £3.2bn in the six months to September. Financial activities, including the M&S chargecard, increased profit by

45 per cent though pensions sales were slower than hoped. Clothing sales increased by just 2.7 per cent, though food sales rose by almost 6 per cent.

The Brooks Brothers business in America continues to disappoint, recording a £2.5m loss owing to mark-downs on excess stock. Losses in the Canadian operations also deepened due to competition and the difficult economic climate. The stores in Thailand and Singapore performed better. The half-year dividend was increased by 7 per cent to 3.0p. The shares closed 4p higher at 411p.

BREITLING  
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Airtime, speed and time are still shown in modern cockpits by means of a printer or needle - precisely because this sort of indicator sweeping over a circular gauge is what a pilot sees best, particularly when keeping track of countless other pieces of information. But digital readouts can for instance provide times to 1/10th of a second and alphanumeric data along with simplifying the setting of programmable functions.

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS



## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## St Michael joins the mortals

The City has become so accustomed to Marks & Spencer bucking the retail trend that it came as quite a shock to find that St Michael is human after all. Yesterday's figures from Britain's largest retailer were not bad given the grim trading environment but they showed that even M&S is finding it tough going on the high street at the moment.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to September were up almost 9 per cent to £385m, boosted by a strong contribution from financial activities, which include the M&S charge card.

The main disappointment was the performance in the core clothing division, where sales increased by just 2.7 per cent. Like every other retailer M&S blames the unseasonal weather, with a summer heatwave followed by a warm autumn, which has dented sales of winter clothing. As a contrast the company says clothing sales last week were up 10 per cent on the previous year due to the recent cold snap.

Better performers were the trusty food halls, where sales increased by almost 6 per cent. Home furnishings also did well, with the wedding list proving popular.

If the picture is mixed at home it is not much clearer abroad. Brooks Brothers, the troublesome American acquisition, made a £2.5m loss in the six months compared with a modest profit in the previous year, due to mark-downs on excess stock. Losses in Canada increased from £2m to £3m due to high rents, poor sales and squeezed margins.

M&S is not revealing detailed figures on the sale of pension and life assurance policies, which it started in the spring. But it is clear that sales are lower than hoped – it is not clear that the trustworthy M&S brand will necessarily prove a boon in financial services.

For M&S investors used to a steady rise in the share price, the past year has been a disappointment. Having started at 396p in January the shares have gone nowhere.

They have recently been hit by a series of downgrades ahead of yesterday's figures. Some analysts were downgrading further yesterday to 495p for the full year, compared with the £1bn previously expected.

Investors seeking a larger retail stock might be better advised to go for Boots than M&S or GUS to include exposure to the clothing sector. That said, the M&S brand name remains the strongest on the high street and, after

a bout of share price weakness, they could be set for a rally, especially if the Budget is helpful. The shares were up 4p to 411p yesterday. On a forward rating of 17 they are not cheap but a good long-term bet.

## Mitigating the Allied disaster

Allied Domecq is such a disaster it is starting to look interesting. It has underperformed the market by more than a quarter over the past year and by almost 40 per cent since 1991, so institutional indignation could be rising to the point where something radical is done to reverse the tide. Whether that is a takeover, a demerger or something completely different, things can hardly get worse for shareholders, and with a 63 per cent yield underpinning the shares, the downside is limited.

That is the optimistic view. Taking it demands that a blind eye is turned to the string of disasters that have befallen Allied in recent years, including the ill-fated brewing merger with Carlsberg and the badly mistimed acquisition of

Domecq just in time for recession and the collapse of the peso in Mexico.

Complicated as full-year figures to August were by a change of year-end and exceptional charges, a collapse in profits at Carlsberg Tøtlev from £75m to £47m, flat profits from the spirits side, including Domecq, and no growth in retailing sent out a clear message.

In spirits, more than half of group profits, extremely modest volume growth is only being achieved at the cost of a big increase in marketing spend. Pricing, the other big profits driver, is going nowhere and once again only cost savings are keeping the wheels on – the reason a radical proposal from Hoare Govett, the broker, starts to look increasingly attractive. Allied is no good at marketing spirits, Hoare says, and not bad at retailing, so why not sell the booze brands, cut the link with brewing, complete the pull-out from food and concentrate on what it can do.

The broker recommends using the sale proceeds to buy Burger King from GrandMet, repurchase a tranche of shares and invest in the core pubs, off-licences and fast food franchises. Those transactions, Hoare reckons, could create shareholder value of 66p a share compared with yesterday's

unchanged close of 493p. It is a radical proposal, but with a yawning gap between share price and possible value, the shares are worth holding on the off-chance that, even if Allied isn't up to the challenge, someone else may be.

## Shake-up hurts Amersham

Amersham International is going through a difficult period as it moves away from its roots in radioactive chemicals for medical research. But it has also been guilty of failing to keep the City abreast of developments.

The shares tumbled 71p to 849p yesterday as analysts trimmed forecasts for the third time in 18 months on the back of worse-than-expected interim results and a cautious trading statement. Headline pre-tax profits to September inched ahead £200,000 to £19.8m, after stripping out a £1.5m exchange gain the trading result went backwards. An interim dividend pegged at 4.9p added to the gloom.

Two unexpected problems wroughted the company and the market. A sudden shortfall in waste processing orders from eastern Germany, which shaved £3m from the turnover of the small industrial quality operation, is already being reversed. More serious and more foreseeable was a drop in US sales for Amersham Life Science. Like others in the business of supplying the research and development arms of the big drugs groups, Amersham is suffering as the industry consolidates. Divisional operating profits, up from £15.3m to £15.6m, were only kept moving by the exchange gain.

With margins typically over 20 per cent in life sciences, this continuing trend increases the pressure on Amersham to move to high value-added branded products. Management is confident new applications will stem the decline in sales of its Ceretec patented brain imaging agent.

But future hopes rest on Myoview, a second-generation heart-imaging agent, on course to be marketed in the US from early next year. And Amersham is well advanced in negotiations to pay £60m to take its stake in the Japanese Nihon Med-Physics to 50 per cent from next year. That could add 10 per cent to earnings. Even so, a p/e of 18, based on expectations of profits this year of £48m, looks high enough.

## Simon Pincombe CITY DEAR

## Motor in the cathedral at the car makers' rally

An invitation to celebrate with the motor industry on the occasion of its centenary. The festivities will kick off with a service at Coventry Cathedral on 17 January to commemorate 100 years of motor manufacturing. This promises to be a moving experience.

"We hope to be graced by the attendance of a member of the Royal family," promises the Lord Mayor of Coventry. "Other invitations have gone out to ministers from motor manufacturing countries, city mayors and senior figures in the motor industry and motor sport."

The highlight of the service will be an exhibition of vintage, veteran and new cars from the car manufacturing nations, tastefully displayed "in the dramatic setting of the Old Cathedral ruins".

We will now sing hymn number 327, "Bring me my turbo-charge, four-wheel, off-the-road chariot of fire..."

The demographic time-bomb looks to have a shorter fuse than was thought. Research published today by Sanders & Sydney, the outplacement consultants, suggests that your career will be over bar the shouting at 42.

Only a small number of the employers interviewed in the survey said they actively employed older people. Indeed, half believed that anyone aged over 50 had a problem while a further quarter claimed (somewhat disturbingly) that "there was a difficulty at 40". The age at which discrimination bites is 42, the survey claims.

"Ageism is perceived to be an ever-increasing threat to a normal working life-span," warns Frances Cook, S&S managing director, who blames increasingly young management. Certainly employers are becoming obsessive in their prejudice. More than half those questioned admitted to being extremely



With the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh making peace with the Maoris in New Zealand – and the Prince of Wales in Israel for the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin – there were suggestions that Prince William might have to be plucked out of Eton to give the Gas Bill its Royal Assent. Any list of "ripe" Bills must be signed by two Councillors of State (front-line Royals) in the monarch's absence and they were looking a bit thin on the ground this week. However, not one to tarry over gas deregulation, Prince Charles made all haste. Prince Edward, too, was pressed into service. "The Bill will be given the Great Seal by the Sealer today," intones the Lord Chancellor's Office.

irritated by the absence of age on a CV.

On the subject of age the bloody battle for supremacy at the Institute of Public Relations has ended with a victory for the Young Turks. Simon Lewis, the 36-year-old, Oxford-educated head of corporate communications at National Westminster Bank has emerged victorious as the president-elect.

He will take the helm in 1997 after shadowing Rosemary Brook next year.

The vanquished Old Codgers were represented by the fiftysomethingish Peter Walker. But with many of the Institute's 5,000 members on the mature side Mr Lewis will have his work cut out to create a one-nation state.

The new mouthpiece of the London Stock Exchange is Claire Mascall, who joins as head of corporate affairs next month. She replaces Kate Bowles on the LSE executive and takes over 26 staff. Experience is something she is not short of. She has worked in the steel, electricity, nuclear power, banking and construction industries, with companies such as British Steel and Barclays. She also handled the TSB float.

Good news for anxious users of the Sun Life desk diary. The entire print run of the 1996 edition, "which TNT managed to lose somewhere between the producers and ourselves" has been discovered in a wood yard in North Yorkshire.

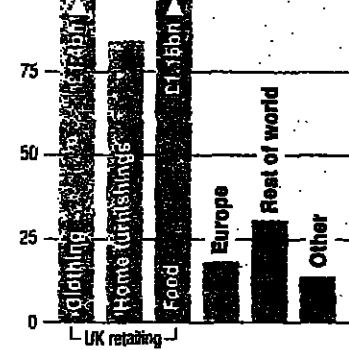
## Marks &amp; Spencer: at a glance

Market value: £11.5bn, share price 411p

Trading record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
Turnover (£bn)	5.8	5.9	6.5	6.8	3.1	3.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	588.9	736.5	851.5	924.5	354.2	385.4
Earnings per share (pence)	13.5	18.0	20.9	22.4	8.6	9.3
Dividends per share (pence)	7.1	8.1	9.2	10.3	2.8	3.0

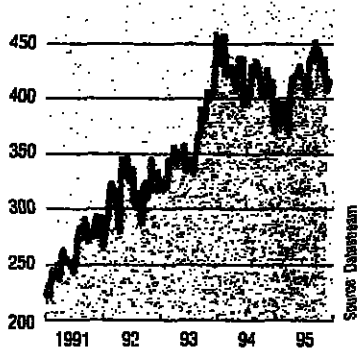
## Group sales

by activity, 5m (6 months)



## Share price

pence



## National Power clashes with GEC over delays

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

National Power is to claim £20m from GEC Alsthom over delays with its latest gas-fired power station at Little Barford, Bedfordshire, which was due to be operating in the spring. The plant is not now expected to be up and running until early next year.

The extent of the problem with Little Barford emerged as National Power announced a 20 per cent increase in pre-tax

profits to £254m in the first half of the year. Earnings per share rose by 12 per cent to 15.6p and the dividend increased by 34 per cent to 5.4p, helped by a share buy-back in March.

The company also confirmed its gearing will rise to 150 per cent as a result of its £2.8bn planned takeover of Southern Electric, the regional electricity supply company in the south of England, falling back again within a few months. National Power revealed that it now owns, or has acceptances, in respect of more than 50 per cent of Southern's shares, although the takeover has yet to be approved by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade.

Keith Henry, who became chief executive seven months ago, said: "The results are a solid performance in an increasingly competitive generation market where prices as well as our market share have fallen."

National Power's market share fell to 30 per cent in the 27 weeks to 1 October, compared with 32 per cent a year before.

After the proposed sale of three major power stations as required by Offer, the industry regulator, the market share will fall to between 20 and 25 per cent. The sale of the power stations, for which there are four bidders, could bring in £1bn for National Power, in addition to further payments related to the future operation of the plants.

Mr Henry said that he expects to hear the Government's verdict on Southern Electric around 20 November. "The ball is in the court of the Office

Fair Trading. The strength of our case is paramount. We can see no reason on the grounds of competition why this bid should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission."

National Power, which bid for Southern after three earlier takeovers of regional firms were cleared, took heart from last week's approval of the acquisition of Norweb by North West Water. It is thought that Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of Offer, wants

this bid to be referred because it marks the beginning of significant vertical integration between power generation, distribution and supply – a structure that was dismantled before the industry was privatised five years ago. He is likely to hold similar views on PowerGen's £1.9bn bid for Midlands Electricity, also awaiting the green light from Mr Lang.

But there is a widespread view that any objection by Professor Littlechild would be overruled by the Government.

## BP still waiting for the gasman

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

BP beat lower oil prices and problems in the chemicals market to come in with replacement cost profits of £532m in the third quarter of the year, an increase of 28 per cent over the same period in 1994.

The results were at the top end of City analysts' expectations, underlining BP's strong position after struggling back from the crisis days of 1992.

The dividend was increased to 4p from 2.5p previously, bringing the total for the nine months to 11p. The shares closed unchanged at 469p.

David Simon, chairman, said: "This is top-of-the-league performance. It is a choppyish environment but we are comfortable with our position in it. We are confident we can maintain our competitive position and we are seeing more and more opportunities for growth."

Mr Simon said that BP's "self-help" strategy of improving efficiency, extending the range of products and reducing costs continued to bear fruit. The company has taken \$300m out of the cost base so far this year and plans to cut a further

\$100m in the fourth quarter, and \$300m in 1996.

BP was showing a trend towards "disciplined growth", but would not be ready to talk about the next phases of its expansion until next year.

It also emerged that British Gas has failed to request a meeting with BP, one of the largest North Sea producers, to re-open long term contracts in spite of a public row over gas prices and terms. British Gas has been calling for government support to help renegotiate contracts with a range of producers, which it claims are forcing it to take hundreds of millions of pound worth of gas it cannot yet sell.

The débacle over contracts came to a head last month when Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, warned that the problem could have serious consequences for British Gas.

But John Brown, BP chief executive, said yesterday: "We have had no written request from British Gas for any renegotiation nor have we had any formal discussions. Our position is that contracts are contracts and it is important we have regard to the value of those contracts for our shareholders."



Disciplined growth: David Simon, chairman of BP which beat lower oil prices and flat chemicals. Photograph: UPPA

Mr Simon said, though no approach had been made, BP would be willing to talk about it. It is thought BP is taking

about £10m a quarter from British Gas under "take or pay" deals for gas for which there is no market.

## New subscribers double BSkyB earnings

MATHEW HORSMAN  
Media Editor

Buoyed by increased dish sales and more than 200,000 new subscribers, cable and satellite company BSkyB yesterday announced sharply higher first-quarter earnings of £50.8m, double the figure last year.

The shares rose 16p to 486p on the news, as some analysts moved to mark up their forecasts for the year.

A total of 214,000 new subscribers signed up for the com-

pany's services, which include news, entertainment and sports, as well as specialty channels supplied by other broadcasters for distribution via BSkyB's pay-TV system. Sky now reaches 4.38 million homes by satellite or cable.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive, said: "Recent sales performance has been particularly strong and we enter the peak pre-Christmas selling season with our best line-up of entertainment, sport and new channels. He added that the addition

of seven new channels in November fuelled subscriber growth in late summer and autumn. The Disney Channel, introduced on 1 November, is expected to power dish sales through the second quarter.

The number of customers subscribing via cable grew by 56 per cent over the comparable period last year, with direct-to-home subscriptions increasing by 35 per cent.

All told, subscriptions accounted for 85 per cent of turnover, with advertising rev-

enues generating 10 per cent, up by 17 per cent since last time. Operating costs climbed by 37 per cent like-for-like, of which programming costs accounted for 59 per cent. Spending on sports was primarily responsible for the rise.

On the all-important "pay-to-basic" ratio (the number of subscribers who take premium movie and sports channels), the company reported further growth, with 57 per cent of all customers taking all the extra-charge channels.

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# Water shares steamed up on Northumbrian go-ahead

## TAKING STOCK

Speculators splashed around in water shares following Whitehall's delayed clearance of the French bid for Northumbrian Water.

Optimists are banking on waters being subjected to the same bid frenzy that has enlivened electricity. There is excited talk of more cross-utility deals on the lines of North West Water's takeover of Norweb. Indeed, some believe proposed deals have been bottled up until the Government pronounced on Lyonnais des Eaux ambitions towards Northumbrian.

Although the French group complained the conditions it would have to meet were "severe", it is expected to launch its offer quickly with the stock market anticipating a bid in the region of 1.150p. Northumbrian, excited by the prospect, surged 66p to 1.074p in brisk trading.

Hanson, which is acquiring

Eastern Electricity and moving into generators, was linked with Eastern's water counterpart - Anglian, up 13p at 578p.

The two Welsh utilities were also seen as natural fits with, so the story went, Welsh Water absorbing South Wales Electricity. A bid, said the allegedly well-informed, will materialise today. So SWE jumped 28p to 988p and Welsh Water rose 11p to 754p. Other waters flowed strongly with Thames achieving a 20p gain to 536p.

Heavy restructuring costs have in the past damaged the prospects for water takeover bids. There was also a theory the Government would be reluctant to allow a similar takeover romp to that which has engulfed electricity. But its decision to give the all-clear to the Lyonnais des Eaux initiative is prompting a rapid rethink. Besides the defensive cross-utility deals more over-



## MARKET REPORT

### DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

seas interest is likely to develop, with French and US utilities moving in.

Utilities did not enjoy any exclusivity of the takeover speculations. Banks in general, and TSB in particular, made sure of that.

Rumours a counter-bidder is prepared to charge into the cosy deal Lloyds Bank has arranged with TSB Group intensified, lifting TSB 16.5p to 396p. Commerzbank, the German group, remains the favourite to strike.

Lloyds added 18.5p to 816p and National Westminster Bank, said to be close to buying the privately-owned HM Rothschild merchant bank,

gained 12p to 649p. Standard Chartered, once a Lloyds target now seen as a possible HSBC victim, improved 8p to 525p. Utilities and banks pushed the stock market ahead with the FTSE index up 7.6 points at 3,522.4. Trading was much busier than recently with turnover nudging 800 million shares.

Glaxo Wellcome was again in form, gaining 16p to 887p. Today's analyst meeting and the US Food and Drug Administration clearance for its HIV virus encouraged the shares.

Guinness, however, was a casualty of an investment

meeting, falling 20p to 489p as the market braced itself for profit downgrades.

Caradon, the building materials group, was another hit by worries of analytical knives, falling 8p to 177p with one 250,000 trade completed at 172.5p.

British Gas had an eventful session, diving 6p on the poor statement from Calor. But the price was quickly squeezed to 228p, off 0.5p, with what was seen as sympathetic noises from British Petroleum over the take-or-pay gas contracts helping sentiment. Calor fell 20p to 237p.

Results hit Amersham International 71p to 849p but Allied Domecq managed to hold at 493p despite predictably flat figures. BSkyB jumped 16p to 386p on results.

Inchcape dipped 7p to 295p with a downgrading by SBC Warburg, the company's broker, overshadowing the arrival

of new chairman Sir Colin Marshall. TI, the engineer, added 5p to 440p on an investment meeting and BPR, the plaster board group, put on 9p to 299p in response to a NatWest Securities push.

Reckitt & Colman, off 6p at 651p, was unsettled by a hovering line of stock.

Chubb, the security group, was firm at 333p. Interim results are due next month and Williams de Broe expect a 15 per cent advance to £44.9m.

Rhino, the computer games retailer, lost some of its recent embezzlement, falling 4p to 12.5p, but bid speculation continued to inflate Bluebird, the toys group, up 10p to 386p.

Neotronics Technology added 8p to 53p after announcing the development of a "electronic nose", a small analyser.

Environmed, the struggling healthcare group, added another 3p to 23p.

MAID, the business information group, climbed 8p to 318p in busy trading. US investors were said to be shopping ahead of the expected American share launch next week. In US eyes MAID's shares are cheap and there is a temptation to get hold of stock before first time transatlantic dealings get under way. MAID made 60 US presentations in 10 days to get its US listing off the ground. The US float will produce about \$50m.

Town Centre Securities, the Leeds-based property group run by the Ziff family, fell 4p to 85p as a turnover of nearly 24 million shares was printed. Four big deals went through at 82p. There was speculation the Ziffs were lessening their involvement, but it seems the selling was by one of TCS's institutional shareholders.

## SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: ex Ex rights x Ex-dividend x Ex-all x United Securities Market x Suspended pp Partly Paid pp Nil Paid Shares. Source: Financial.

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## MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Stock	Vol	Value	Stock	Vol	Value	Stock	Vol	Value
HSBC	38,000	£10.0m	Shell Transport	14,000	£1.1m	BAA	6,100	£7.0m
BT	25,000	£10.0m	British Gas	13,000	£1.1m	Water Shares	6,000	£7.0m
Almaly National	12,000	£1.0m	Caradon	8,000	£1.0m	Glaxo	5,000	£6.0m
General Elect	12,000	£1.0m	British Steel	8,000	£1.0m	Glaxo	5,000	£6.0m
Seaboard	15,000	£1.0m	Northumbrian	8,000	£1.0m	TSB	7,000	£6.0m

## FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

Open 3517.6 up 3.0	11.00 3518.2 up 4.4	14.00 3526.3 up 11.5
09.00 3513.1 down 1.7	12.00 3526.2 up 11.4	15.00 3529.1 up 6.0
10.00 3513.6 down 1.2	13.00 3526.2 up 11.4	Close 3522.4 up 7.6

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## GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

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# Super Leaguers shape up for the small screen

Mal Meninga was every bit as commanding on centre stage as he used to be in a centre's shirt. "No dramatic rule changes," he said, almost adding, "George Bush-like: 'Read my lips. No dramatic changes.'"

As a highly influential front-man for the Super League, Meninga comes up with the right sound bites. But there are others, who wield even more clout than he does, singing a subtly different tune.

Take this, for instance. "We'll make rugby league look like you've never seen it before." It is not exactly "steady as she goes" - and it comes from Ru-

pert Murdoch, in an interview with the *Australian* last month. Meninga was in England this week for the launch of the European end of Murdoch's Super League empire. He had to help make the future sound exciting - which it is - but, at the same time, reassuringly familiar, something it may well not be.

The fact of the matter is that Super League is going to have to deliver the goods for television. As Meninga admitted on Monday, meetings of Super League coaches in Australia have already come up with a series of suggestions. This way, the game can still claim to be in the

driving seat; logic dictates, however, that it is the changes which will suit the screen that will be adopted.

The word from Australia is that those changes will include stopping the clock for goal-kicks, unlimited substitutions, moving all scrums 20 metres in-field and, possibly, dividing games into four quarters.

Although Meninga and the driving force behind the Super League in Britain, Maurice Lindsay, were at pains to point

out that nothing will happen without an international consensus, such revisions of the rules would move the code further away from its heritage as a continuous game played, for the most part, by the same 13 players.

The overriding need to package the game as televisual entertainment has already started here with the dramatic opening of play under the 10-metre offside rule. One Australian observer, used to

the different practices back home, watched the 15 tries in the London Broncos' match against St Helens last week and said: "I have seen the future of rugby league and it's called basketball."

It looks good on TV but, as a live diet week after week, it can be curiously unsatisfying and bloodless.

One problem that Super League on both continents will have when it starts in March is that too many matches will be

unbalanced. A solution is already suggesting itself: the side that scores kicking off and their opponents getting possession.

Changes will be as dramatic as they need to be to make the Super League work. And, five years down the line, when the first Super League contract expires, the more far-sighted clubs are preparing themselves for a whole new ball-game. What some of them expect to be doing then is playing in a truly European competition, involving teams from what are now rugby union clubs.

Will that be under rugby league rules as we know them?

The truth is that we do not know, or that those who do know are not saying.

What Murdoch has said is that it will be done his way - or else. "If we've failed in rugby league we'll move on to the next sport and the next one and maybe we'll come back to rugby league one day soon, or later. We'll see."

We will, starting next March. Oldham's coach, Andy Goodway, believed to be on a shortlist of three for the coaching job of new Super League club Paris, will have talks about his future with Oldham's chairman, Jim Quinn, tomorrow.

## Hamed unable to defend his title

Boxing

A hand injury to Naseem Hamed means that he is unable to make his first defence of the World Boxing Organisation featherweight title and will surrender the spotlight to two of Britain's bread-and-butter champions at London Arena on 9 December.

Hamed sustained a fractured right hand while preparing for the fight against the unbeaten Mexican, Arnulfo Castillo. "The specialist says he will not be able to fight before the end of January at the earliest," said Andy Ayling for the promoter Frank Warren.

Hamed, who stopped the Welshman Steve Robinson to become champion, is now scheduled to meet Castillo later in the year. In his place, Ross Hale and Paul Ryan top the bill in a triple light-welterweight title fight which presents both men with a big chance to make the most of prime-time exposure - and to press a claim for a WBO world championship chance.

Herbie Hide will also not fight on 9 December, having decided to forgo a £120,000 purse to challenge for the European heavyweight title in Stuttgart. He has withdrawn from a bout against the Croatian holder, Zeljko Mavrovic, because he is not keen to fight in Germany.

It would have been Hide's first ring appearance since losing his WBO title to Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas in March - a fight which earned him £2m - and was scheduled to support the Axel Schulz-Franks Botha bout for the vacant International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship.

Hide was forced to pull out of the original 15 September date against Mavrovic in his home town of Norwich after undergoing an operation on his jaw which required the removal of wisdom teeth.

The European Boxing Union then put the bout out to purse bids, with the biggest offer coming from a German promoter, Wilfried Sauerland. "I didn't want to fight in Germany. I wanted the fight to go ahead in front of my own fans in Norwich," Hide said.

## Leadbetter stays ahead of the game

Golf's No 1 guru reveals the secrets of his phenomenal success to Richard Edmondson

an Baker-Finch is an exception. As he towed round a gallery with a liking for the macabre at St Andrews in July, the Australian's horrible deterioration picked away at the invincibility of David Leadbetter, the sport's foremost coach.

Baker-Finch is a rarity in golf, a man taught by Leadbetter and a man going backwards. His slide into the crevasse has coincided with a season of calm for the high-profile Leadbetter clients - Nick Faldo, Nick Price and Ernie Els - and put a confident note into the voices of those who like to criticise the guru.

One Ryder Cup-winning player has already suggested that Leadbetter will be no force within the game in a decade's time, while others are emerging from the foxholes with the practised line that his methods are too eccentric, his players too robotic.

Leadbetter himself hears these noises. "It's only human that people look at what you're doing and have their own ideas about it," he said on a recent visit to Britain to promote his new book, "But I don't let that worry me because I just enjoy what I do. You can't make everyone happy all the time, but I work with so many players that hopefully one of them is going to do well."

Els's success in last month's World Matchplay was a fillip for

the camp and at Oakhill in September he should have carried a flag that was a reversible Stars and Stripes and EC pennant, such was his involvement with players on both sides during the Ryder Cup. But then the Sussex-born man with the tones of Ian Smith always has a good chance of a vicarious victory.

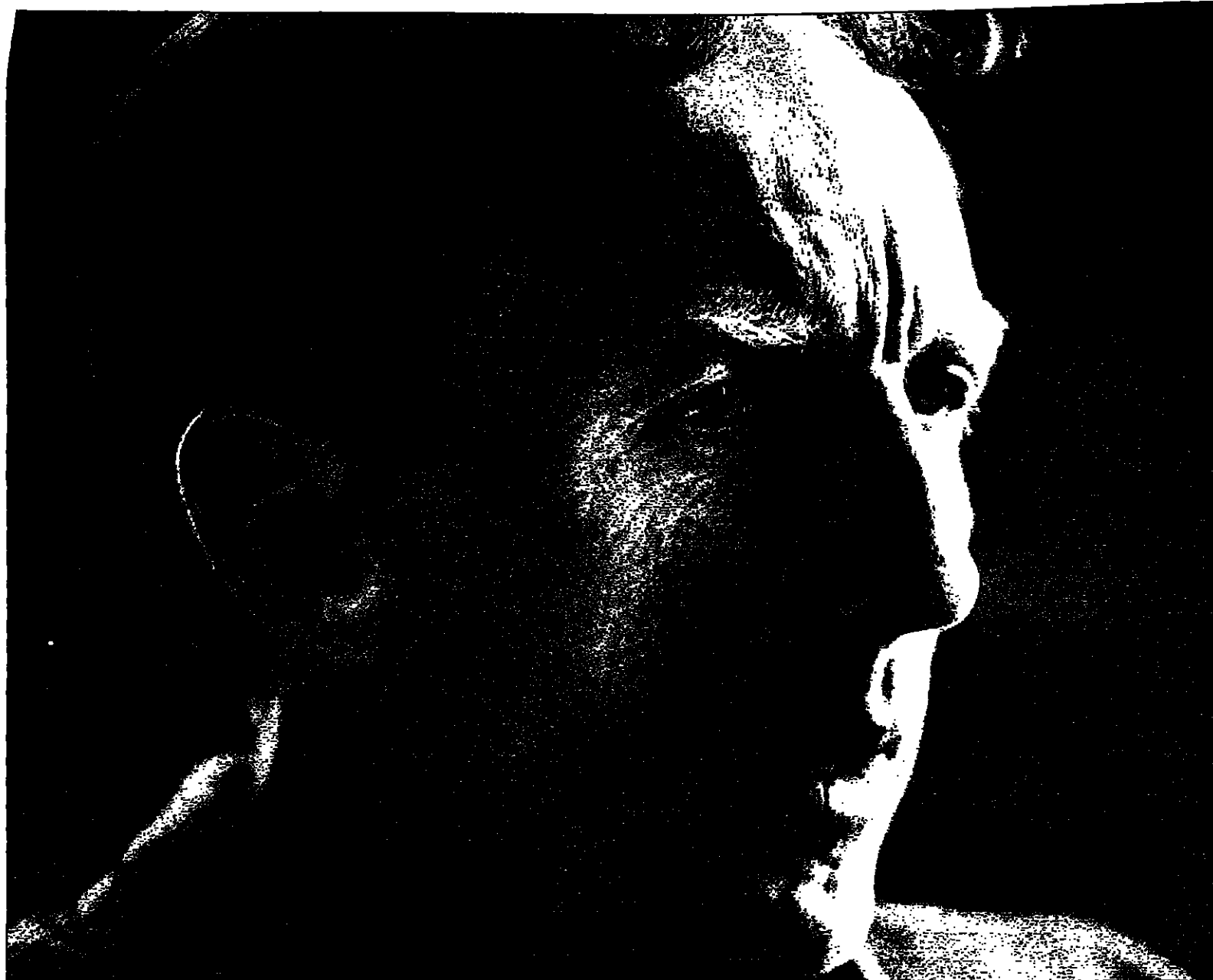
Leadbetter has made his name partly for the peculiarity of his system, for the little box of tricks he likes to carry around with him. He has made Faldo practise while wearing water wings, asked the great man to take his shoes off and play, and also employed a series of harnesses that

appear to have come from a Spanish Inquisition catalogue. Further teaching aids look to have been scooped up after a quick dash into the garage.

"I've used footballs between people's arms and beach balls between their knees," he said. "I've had them swinging a mop or rubber tubing with a weight on the end to get a feeling of whip in the swing."

Sadly, nothing can help the pathetic Baker-Finch who, just four years after an Open victory at Birkdale, makes his part of the golf course a hard-hat area. "In basic terms, he has now got the vips with the driver," Leadbetter said. "He tells me that when he stands up there he has a mental image of disaster."

**'Nick Faldo has always been a grinder, though he is not as technical as some people make out'**



David Leadbetter: 'Analysing the golf swing is a bit like being a detective. You have to solve the mystery'

Photograph: Peter Jay

Half-way down the swing a picture comes into his mind that he'll either hit it out of bounds or even miss it altogether.

Price's mind has been full of this season, which is Leadbetter's reasoning for this protégé's lack of impact in the majors, while the teacher believes his prize pupil, Faldo, will soon be on top of the rostrum again. "I don't know why he hasn't won more tournaments this year, but it is going to happen," Leadbetter said. "It's a bit like asking why didn't it rain very much this summer. We all

know it's going to happen again one day and you can also sense Nick Faldo's drought will not continue for much longer."

Like Mark McCormack, who believes he can learn more from a man in a single round of golf than 100 business meetings, Leadbetter considers the golf course a big, alfresco confessional, where each player gives himself away. "Swings match personalities to a large extent," he said. "Ernie has a long, flowing lazy swing, which is just like him; Nick Price has a twisted, compact swing, which is how he is, an aggressive,

snappy fellow who thinks quickly and speaks quickly; and Nick Faldo has always been a grinder and he's an analytical person, though he is not as technical as some people seem to make out."

Leadbetter's golfing technique must therefore be fluent and well-practised. He has a communicator's fluidity with words, and also the neat conversational stratagem of dropping in people's christian names. "That's right, Sybil," he told listeners to *Ruscoe On Five* from Broadcasting House in London, and then, a quick

walk across Portland Place to the Langham Hilton and a light snack later, he insisted "that's a very good question, Richard."

With his books, videos, schools and retreats - two-day courses which cost \$3,500 (£2,400) a man - all of which he calls "the marketing stuff", David Leadbetter, who once nearly became an accountant, probably needs a team from that profession to look after his affairs. He maintains, however, he does his job not principally for material gain but for the satisfaction of improving a golfer,

be it the world No 1 or the chap who once startled him in an airport toilet with the suggestion that Leadbetter was the perfect man "to give him a hand".

"Analysing the golf swing is a bit like being a detective," he said. "You have the case in front of you and you have to solve the mystery." While Baker-Finch may now perform as though he has been programmed by Clauseau, there are still plenty of cases to support the belief that David Leadbetter is the best in his field.

David Leadbetter's *Lessons From The Golf Greats*, Collins Willow £16.99.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

80

The number of times Argentina and Brazil will have played each other at full international level after tonight's football friendly in Buenos Aires. So far, Argentina have won 30 of the matches and Brazil 28.

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ON Sunday 19 November one of the world's greatest stores is opening its doors exclusively to readers of the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. Liberty, a byword for quality, choice, elegance and luxury, will welcome you in 21 branches nationwide, including its famous Tudor building in London's Regent Street, between 11am and 5pm.

As well as shopping in unhurried calm, there will be presentations, tastings, special offers and a ten percent discount on all purchases over £10. Each department in a Liberty store offers the traditional and the unusual, the quirky and the downright indulgent - but always with a stamp of quality and value for money.

The Christmas Home, for example, has everything you need to make the festive season a time of luxury with scented pot pourri and exotic oils to give your home a warm, spicy aroma and sumptuous cloths and coverings to give your table a touch of timeless style.

To attend the shopping day simply call Liberty on 0171 573 9573 to book an invitation (admits two). You will be asked to give your name, address, the branch you wish to visit and the number of invitations you require. Lines are open daily until Saturday 11 November between 9am and 6pm.

Numbers at each participating store (listed below) are limited, so to avoid disappointment call NOW.

#### Participating Liberty Branches:

London: Regent Street and Fenchurch Street; Bath: New Bond Street; Brighton: East Street; Bromley: The Glades; Canterbury: Trinity Street; Canterbury: Barge; Chesham: The Promenade; Chester: Bridge Street; Edinburgh: George Street; Exeter: High Street; Gloucester: C/o Army & Navy, Market Street; Glasgow: Buchanan Street; Kingston: Church Street; Manchester: King Street; Newcastle: London Street; Belfast: High Street; Salisbury: Catherine Street; Macclesfield: Park Lane; Stratford: Bridge Street; York: Daughters.

## INDEPENDENT



#### Rules

1. To enter our Liberty prize draw, collect 5 differently numbered tokens (including one from the Independent on Sunday) and send with a completed entry form to: Independent Liberty Prize Draw, PO Box 250, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU. The closing date is 21 November 1995. We will post an entry form on Saturday 11 November.
2. For previously published tokens or an entry form sent at SAE to: Independent Liberty, PO Box 52, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU. (State the amount of tokens you require (only 4 per application)).
3. Winners must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept that their names and photographs will be published in the paper.
4. Photocopies of tokens and entry forms are not acceptable.
5. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Plc or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with this promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their families or households.
6. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or competitor, nominee, or to add to, or waive any rules.
7. No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage will not be accepted as evidence of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post.
8. The holiday must be taken before the end of March 1996. Airport tax and travel insurance are not included.
9. There is no cash alternative.
10. The Editor's decision is final.

**WIN £5,000 of Liberty**  
Gift Vouchers plus a holiday in Thailand

SHOPPING at Liberty is always a pleasure, so imagine just how pleasurable it would be if you had £5,000 of Liberty Gift Vouchers to spend.

That is the first prize in our Liberty prize draw. And, having shopped to dropping point, our winner will be able to recuperate, along with a partner, with a 4-night city break in Bangkok's luxurious Regent Hotel. The flight to and from Thailand will be with Eva Air and the holiday is worth £2,500.

Our second and third prize winners will receive Liberty Gift Vouchers worth £3,000 and £2,000 respectively. All three major prize winners will be brought to London and given a VIP shopping tour of the Regent Street branch.

For 20 runners-up there are Liberty Gift Vouchers worth £50.

To enter our draw you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the seven being published in the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. One token must come from the Independent on Sunday. If you missed Sunday's token, we are publishing it again today along with Token 4. An entry form will appear on Saturday 11 November.

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

TOKEN 1

LIBERTY

INDEPENDENT

TOKEN 4

LIBERTY

Spv 100 1520







## Football

Also, the referee at Forest, said yesterday: "I'm certain I cannot be questioned over the decision to give Forest a free-kick for the Wimbledon player's dissent. He did not swear but went on and on for a long time and in the end when he pointed to his eyes, clearly indicating the linesman was blind. I could not allow him any more leeway. The second bookable offence was quite straightforward. He deliberately stopped his opponent running past him by putting his body in the way."



### Jones: Monday's first offence

**Max Griggs, the chairman of ambitious Rushden & Diamonds, and the luxurious Nene Park, the ground he built**

Photographs: Robert Hallam

## FA CUP COUNTDOWN

## What connects Rushden & Diamonds and Doc Martens? **Phil Shaw** on a lucrative link

Dr Klaus Martens' revolutionary boot design - with air-filled "bouncing soles" - was acquired in 1960 by a family firm in the cobbling county of Northamptonshire. Today the business boasts a worldwide weekly sale of 220,000 pairs of

The stadium itself is unrecognisable from the days when the original Diamonds played to 30 men and a dog in the United Counties League. (A few miles away Rushden were drawing 150 in the Beazer Midland Division). A mass of red seats and one spacious



The first fixture as Rushden & Diamonds was watched by 315. A gate of 2,078 for Satur-

Unlike most clubs who have relocated, the ground does not resemble an architecturally challenged hypermart. The focal point is the Diamond Centre, which houses spacious offices and state-of-the-art dressing-rooms. There is also a restaurant, conference facilities, gymnasium, sauna, bars and banqueting suite that converts into a snooker venue

"If you look at a team pic from our first year, in '92, there's only two faces left. From the next year it's three or four. We pay well, but they're great lads, not mercenaries."

"I'm asked why I haven't gone back to Northampton, or to Kettering, but it's lovely to build something from nothing. I'm having great fun. Once you've spent the money, you forget you've done it. If the footwear company wanted new machinery that would take priority over football, but as long as we can do both - why not?"

"I don't see why we shouldn't reach the First Division, though I accept you can go too far too fast and that you need to consolidate." Cardiff, one suspects, may not be the first League club to find that walking on air is more Rusden & Diamonds' style than consolidation.

## Ince 'put up for sale' at Inter

**RUPERT METCALF**

"If it were up to me, I'd keep him," Inter's president, Massimo Moratti, said. "But we absolutely need a forward." The Milan club spent £6m on Ince but they – and the player – have struggled this season. *Gazzetta dello Sport* claimed that Arsenal

The Leeds manager, Howard Wilkinson, said: "There is nothing concrete to report just yet. I think the fact that Tomas is

Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager, yesterday recalled the Middlesbrough

defender, Chris Morris, to his squad for Wednesday's European Championship qualifier in Portugal — more than two years after his last cap. Charlton also added the Norwich midfielder, Mike Milligan, capped only once previously, to the party and promoted Liverpool's £2m striker, Mark Kennedy, from the Under-21 pool. Ireland are without Roy Keane, while Andy Townsend, Steve Staunton and John Sheridan are doubtful.

Liverpool's Ian Rush has withdrawn from the Wales squad for next week's trip to Albania with back and ankle injuries.

## Tulio ready for torrid reception

"I'm going to score again. It

Consequently, he has asked several of his leading players, including two strikers playing in Italy, Gabriel Batistuta of Fiorentina and Abel Balbo of Roma, to make the long jour-

**ARGENTINA** (probable): Cresante; Zanetti, Troia, Cáceres, Allamano, Simeone, Astrada, Bertu, Ortega, Balbo, Banatua.

**BRAZIL** (probable): Germano; Cafu, Aldair, Cruz, Carlos, Amaral, Jurelino, Rivaldo, Giovanni, Tulio, Bebeto.

# Bates' blast for Harding

That prompted Bates to reply on 4 November, when he told Harding: "I have flagged up my thoughts and strategy to you often enough. Surely after nearly a year the Board is entitled to a detailed, measured response."

## Salonika in trouble after riot

The violence was sparked by a pitch invasion by some 300 hooligans and ended with 30

■ Luigi Apolloni, the experienced Parma defender, yesterday won a late call-up to the Italy

Mussi, 32, was a surprising inclusion in the squad named on Monday for the qualifiers in Bari on Saturday and Reggio Emilia next Wednesday. He last played for Italy in September 1994 in a disappointing 1-1 draw against Slovenia in Maribor.

[illegible]







**SECTION TWO**  
**PAT BARKER**  
On the war  
must not fore

opposition. Well-organised some sharp forwards, they effectively through to the ropean Championship summer. It was not always Armfield once captained lead to an 8-1 away win at them. A repeat is not expected.

**SWITZERLAND SQUAD:** Pascolo, Giger, Henschel, Heri, Muller, Dussan, G. Vial, Wolf, Hamilton, Gatter, Gatter, Suter.

**ENGLAND UNDER-21 SQUAD** for Euro Championship qualifier v Austria, May 1986: 24 Nov. 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643,

# Malcolm finds his fire just in time

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

8 Tender engaged in stock  
exchange? (8)  
9 Not the final amount for  
payment? (8)  
14 Occupied with archaeo-  
logical work, ten turn out  
to be terribly hard up (8)  
16 Given up having to put  
back hearth (9)  
17 Set of characters giving  
the order of the BEM, for  
example? (8)  
19 Funny English hair-style  
(7)  
21 Painter in leading position  
on the embankment  
(7)  
22 Attending trial, give evi-  
dence (6)  
24 Middle area for girders?  
(5)  
25 Sound composed? (5)

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## nd gown

podium were his two young daughters, in party dresses, and his wife, Claudia, who eventually joined him from the audience.

"It's been very emotional, but it's not often a soccer player has to face so many people so rich in culture and education," he said. Donning a cap and gown and holding an honorary diploma presented to him by Oxford

The diploma read: "Master Inspector of Oxford Dress—"

## Book =====

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